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News Release

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www.dfaic-maeci.gc.ca

January 5, 2000

(6:05 p.m. EST)

No. 1

AXWORTHY TO VISIT CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICA

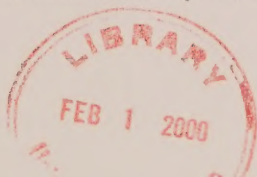
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will travel to the Caribbean and South America from January 6 to 16. The Minister will solicit views and share Canadian priorities in advance of Canada's hosting of the next General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in June and the Summit of the Americas in April, 2001. Canada's priorities include human security concerns such as the traffic in illicit drugs and small arms, peacebuilding and modernizing the OAS and other regional institutions to ensure their continued relevance in the 21st century.

"This visit gives us the opportunity to discuss and begin shaping the agenda for next June's General Assembly of the Organization of American States and for the Summit of the Americas," said Mr. Axworthy. "Building on the hemisphere-wide leadership in the areas of landmines and small arms, we hope to strengthen co-operation and find active solutions to the problems that affect each and every corner of the hemisphere, in particular the problem of illicit drugs."

In Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister will meet with Prime Minister Basdeo Panday, Foreign Minister Ralph Maraj, St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister and current Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Dr. Denzil Douglas, and other CARICOM foreign ministers. Discussions will focus on the particular role of small states in a new era of multilateralism and on human security issues.

In Brasilia, Brazil, Mr. Axworthy and his counterpart, Luiz Felipe Lampreia, will discuss ways to reinforce bilateral co-operation on human security issues, including peacekeeping, governance and human rights. They will also exchange views on hemispheric issues.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, a meeting with Minister for External Affairs and International Trade Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini will establish a firm foundation for relations with Argentina's new administration, and offer an opportunity to discuss common priorities within the United Nations Security Council, such as the protection of civilians during armed conflicts. The Minister will also meet with non-governmental organizations participating in a roundtable on human security issues.



In Santa Cruz, Bolivia, the meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister Javier Murillo de la Rocha will focus on human security. Minister Axworthy will also have an opportunity to visit the coca eradication fields in Chapare, a successful example of Bolivia's determination to end coca cultivation.

In Bogota, Colombia, Mr. Axworthy will meet with President Andrés Pastrana and Foreign Minister Guillermo Fernandez de Soto. Discussions will centre on co-operation to reinforce the peace process in Colombia and how Canada can contribute to Colombia's anti-drug efforts. Minister Axworthy will also inaugurate a Canada-sponsored children's art exhibit that promotes human rights.

Since joining the Organization of American States in 1990, Canada has been an active member of the Organization and a leader in a number of key areas, such as initiatives to involve civil society in hemispheric policy-making; efforts to eliminate the use and stockpiling of landmines; programs to alleviate poverty; the protection of human rights; and the battle against drug trafficking and trade in small arms and light weapons. The next OAS General Assembly will be held in Windsor from June 4 to 7, and the Summit of the Americas will be held in Quebec City, in April 2001.

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News Release

www.dfaic-maeci.gc.ca

January 14, 2000

(10:15 a.m. EST)

No. 2

SECRETARY OF STATE KILGOUR TO VISIT CARIBBEAN

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour announced today that he will visit the Bahamas and Jamaica from January 16 to 20. The purpose of these bilateral visits is to improve Canada's bilateral political and economic relations in that part of the Americas. Canada has important investment interests in both countries as well as solid trade relations.

"This visit will enhance our relationship as we engage in a dialogue on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues," said Kilgour. "As well, it is important to underline the increasing importance of Canadian trade and investment in the region."

While in the Bahamas, Kilgour will meet with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney General Janet Bostwick to discuss emerging social development issues. He will witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding on transport co-operation between the two governments and will promote Canadian interests in the privatization of telecommunication and airport systems in the Bahamas. This will be the first bilateral visit of a Canadian minister in almost a decade.

During his visit to Jamaica, Kilgour will meet with Foreign Minister Seymour Mullings to review the state of bilateral relations and discuss hemispheric initiatives such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas, in which Jamaica has been an active participant. He will also meet with the Ministers of Commerce and Technology, National Security and Labour to advance particular Canadian interests in the areas of telecommunication, security and drug co-operation, and the management of an important farm workers program that supports Canadian farmers.

In addition, Kilgour will deliver the keynote address at the "Doing Business with Canada" conference where a large number of Jamaican entrepreneurs are expected.

Kilgour will use the opportunity of his visits to the Bahamas and Jamaica to report on Minister Axworthy's talks with other CARICOM Foreign Ministers in Trinidad on January 7. Foreign Ministers Bostwick and Mullings had been unable to attend the meeting.



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News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

January 14, 2000

(11:55 a.m. EST)

No. 3

AXWORTHY SIGNS AGREEMENT ON DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION WITH COLOMBIA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today signed an agreement on drug demand reduction with the Government of Colombia, in Bogotá. This is a direct follow-up to the Understanding between the Government of Canada and the Government of Colombia to co-operate in combatting the world drug problem signed during the visit of President Andrés Pastrana to Canada in May 1999.

On Saturday, the Minister will meet with President Pastrana and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for trilateral discussions on Colombia, and particularly on approaches to combatting the problem of illicit drugs.

"Illicit drug trafficking is a major challenge facing all of us in the Americas," said Mr. Axworthy. "Our agreement with Colombia and the discussion with President Pastrana and Secretary of State Albright are important steps in ensuring we deal with this regional human security problem in a concerted, co-ordinated manner."

Under the agreement the two countries will exchange experiences and practices to deal with trafficking of illicit drugs, diverting of chemicals used to produce illicit drugs, money laundering, preventing drug abuse and promoting drug treatment and rehabilitation, and prosecuting drug and related offences.

The demand reduction program will take an integrated approach, connecting not only government departments of the two countries, but also non-governmental organizations. It will link law enforcement and health officials, both of whom will bring different experiences and understanding of the costs of the problem.

A number of training programs and workshops will be organized in Canada and Colombia that will include governmental and non-governmental participants.

Health Canada, the federal government agency responsible for demand reduction policies in Canada, and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Canada's national



non-governmental addiction organization, will be the operative agencies, illustrating the collaborative nature of Canada's domestic response to the illicit drug problem.

In addition to the demand reduction work, the RCMP will be providing training in drug investigative techniques and proceeds of crime investigations to Colombian law enforcement officials later in January.

Minister Axworthy is in Colombia as part of a visit to five countries in the Americas where he has discussed issues of regional concern, in advance of Canada's hosting of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in June of this year and the Summit of the Americas in April 2001.

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News Release

January 21, 2000

(9:40 a.m. EST)

No. 4

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF AIR NEGOTIATOR FOR CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Transport Minister David Collenette today announced the appointment of Serge April as Chief Air Negotiator for Canada.

As Chief Air Negotiator, Mr. April will be responsible for conducting negotiations to provide for air services between Canada and other countries. These negotiations are important to Canada's air carriers, airport communities, tourists and business travellers, investors and shippers.

Mr. April has an extensive background in legal and international affairs. He succeeds William Dymond.

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Biographical notes on Mr. April are attached.

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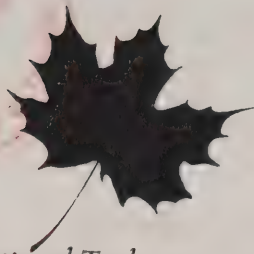
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Serge April (BA, Externat classique, 1964; LL.L., Laval University, 1967; called to the bar of Quebec, 1968; DES [Public Law], University of Ottawa, 1970) joined the Department of External Affairs in 1968 and served abroad in Rome, in Havana, and Paris with the Canadian Delegation to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

From 1985 to 1989 he was Ambassador to Senegal, and from 1992 to 1996 he served as Deputy High Commissioner in London. In 1996, he was named Ambassador to Poland, a position he held until this year.

In Ottawa, Mr. April served in a number of positions, including Director, Economic Law and Treaty Division; Senior Advisor for Federal-Provincial Relations; and Director General of the Legal Affairs Bureau.

Mr. April is married to Suzanne Mercier and they have two children.



International Trade
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News Release

www.dfa.it-ma.eci.gc.ca

January 21, 2000

(1:00 p.m. EST)

No. 5

PETTIGREW TO VISIT EUROPE FOR DISCUSSIONS ON TRADE, ECONOMICS AND GLOBALIZATION

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew will travel to France, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom from January 24 to February 3 to meet with leading European government, business and academic figures, and to attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

These meetings will focus on promoting greater trade and investment between Canada and EU countries and will also give the Minister the opportunity to continue his post-Seattle discussions on globalization, world trade and possible reforms to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"A rules-based trading system that encourages economic growth and development is essential for developed and developing economies alike," said Minister Pettigrew. "However, in working to strengthen this system, we must at the same time ensure that we bring greater coherence to global trade and social policies."

While in Paris from January 24 to 26, Mr. Pettigrew will meet with François Huwart, French Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, and Canadian Donald Johnston, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Mr. Pettigrew will also pursue bilateral Canadian trade and investment interests with French business leaders.

In Geneva on January 26, the Minister will officially open Canada's Permanent Mission to the WTO, and will meet with Mike Moore, Director General of the WTO, and Juan Somavia, Director General of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The following day, Minister Pettigrew will travel to Zurich for meetings before departing for Davos until January 31 for the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. The Forum will provide the Minister with a unique opportunity to meet with corporate, academic, and political leaders who are interested in discussing a forward-looking approach to global issues.



"The meeting will present an excellent opportunity to raise Canada's profile with international business and financial communities, as well as with foreign government leaders," said Mr. Pettigrew. "We will be able to support Canadian business representatives at the meeting and discuss other issues of concern to Canada on the margins of the meeting."

In London, on the final leg of the European mission, the Minister will meet with several British politicians, including the Secretaries of State for International Development, Culture, and Trade and Industry. He will also promote Canada's trade and investment policies and objectives in meetings with, and a speech to, leading British academics and senior business representatives.

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News Release

www.dfaic-maeci.gc.ca

January 21, 2000

(3:15 p.m. EST)

No. 6

AXWORTHY, KILGOUR TO PARTICIPATE IN OPEN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour today announced that they would take part in the open meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in New York on January 24. Mr. Kilgour will remain for the continuation of the debate on January 25.

"In co-operation with the international community, we will attempt to forge a broader consensus among the main players in the Congolese conflict with a view to ensuring and supporting the implementation of the Lusaka accord," said Mr. Axworthy. "An end must be brought to this tragedy, which is injuring, displacing and killing thousands of civilians, including women and children."

During his January 24 address before the United Nations Security Council, Mr. Axworthy will discuss Canada's commitment and the active role our country plans to play in developing the stabilization and peacebuilding process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mr. Axworthy will also emphasize Canada's commitment to defending human security and the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Minister will stress the promotion of inter-Congolese dialogue, consultation and humanitarian assistance, as well as the importance of supporting democratic and institutional development in the DRC.

"We will join forces with Congolese civil society to promote inter-Congolese dialogue, which we feel is the cornerstone on which to build the democratic institutions that will ensure peace and security in the DRC," said Mr. Kilgour.

Mr. Axworthy and Mr. Kilgour will hold bilateral meetings during their stay in New York to ensure a productive dialogue aimed at advancing the stabilization and peacebuilding process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Mr. Axworthy will also meet with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to discuss Canada's protection of civilians in armed conflict initiative as it prepares to assume the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April 2000.

- 30 -

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News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

January 21, 2000

(3:30 p.m. EST)

No. 7

AXWORTHY WELCOMES INCREASED TRANSPARENCY AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the adoption of a Note by the President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which outlines specific steps to render the working methods of the UNSC more transparent and accessible.

Canada led the effort to ensure a UNSC commitment to using a range of meeting options, most of which permit access by other UN member states, as well as the media and the public. Included in the Note are commitments to use various meeting options to ensure that all UN member states have better access to, and can participate in, UNSC deliberations, to hold UNSC public meetings more frequently, and to ensure timely communication with all UN member states. This commitment stands in sharp contrast to the previous UNSC practice of holding the vast majority of its meetings behind closed doors.

"One of our prime objectives on entering the Security Council was to ensure that its working methods better reflect the principles of accountability, accessibility and democracy — principles upon which the United Nations was based," said Mr. Axworthy. "Our efforts have been rewarded by the adoption of this Note by the President — which makes clear that the secretive, closed-door way of doing business can no longer be the modus operandi of the Security Council.

"In the wake of reports by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the tragedies of Rwanda and Srebrenica, it is clear that the Security Council must be more accountable to the greater United Nations membership. Effective decision making does not fear transparency," the Minister added.

Canada has consistently called for greater interaction between the UNSC and non-members, non-governmental organizations, and others who could contribute to the UNSC's deliberations. For example, during the February 1999 meeting on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, on Canada's invitation, the President of the International Red Cross addressed the UNSC for the first time. The meeting also included briefings by the Executive Director of UNICEF and Secretary-General Annan's



Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict. This Canadian initiative has led other UNSC members to follow suit.

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News Release

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January 21, 2000

(9:30 p.m. EST)

No. 8

CANADA CONDEMNS THREAT TO DEMOCRACY IN ECUADOR

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today expressed deep concern over the illegal occupation of the Ecuadorean National Congress and the threat to the legitimate Government of Ecuador.

"Canada fully supports the democratically elected Government of Ecuador and urges a peaceful end to this occupation," said Minister Axworthy. "The Organization of American States should play a central role in overcoming this threat to constitutional order in Ecuador. All of the democratic governments of the Americas must be united in ensuring that the Constitution is respected."

Canada is participating in tonight's emergency meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States in Washington, which will determine a course of action to support the elected President.

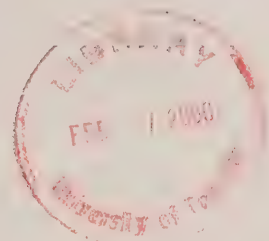
The Canadian Embassy in Quito reports that there are no signs of Canadians in distress.

- 30 -

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News Release

January 24, 2000

(4:40 p.m. EST)

No. 9

CANADA ANNOUNCES PROJECTS TO SUPPORT PEACE PROCESS IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Canada's Minister for International Co-operation, Maria Minna today jointly announced, from New York and Pretoria, South Africa, that Canada would contribute \$2.5 million to support the implementation of the Lusaka accord. This agreement was signed by six governments and three rebel movements in the summer of 1999, leading to a cease-fire after 11 months of conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

"It is very important to create a suitable climate in which the various parties involved in the conflict can implement the Lusaka accord," said Mr. Axworthy. "With the support of the international community, it will be possible to break the circle of violence and conflict in the DRC and the Great Lakes region."

"Today's contribution by the Canadian International Development Agency will both support the fragile peace process and specifically help children most affected by the conflict," said Minister Minna. "We must continue to look for new ways to support those most in need in the DRC."

Canadian support to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo includes new projects emphasizing inter-Congolese dialogue, assistance for war-affected children and funding for the Joint Military Commission.

CIDA will contribute \$1 million to support initiatives by partners to promote the inter-Congolese dialogue. The assistance will help fund projects aimed at putting in place democratic institutions as well as free and transparent elections, and encouraging national dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution.

To help consolidate the peace effort, CIDA will contribute \$1 million to the DRC to disarm, rehabilitate and reintegrate child soldiers into Congolese society.

Canada will also allocate \$500 000 to ensure the funding of the Joint Military Commission, which will be responsible for monitoring the application and implementation of the Lusaka accord.



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United Nations Security Council Resolution 1279, adopted in 1999, consolidated ongoing UN humanitarian and political affairs activities in the DRC into a single body — the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo — whose mandate runs to March 1, 2000. Canada currently has one officer in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who is employed as the Chief of Operations and Plans at the Advance UN Military Headquarters in Kinshasa.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 1999 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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News Release

January 25, 2000

(9:00 a.m. EST)

No. 10

CANADA WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS ON OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and National Defence Minister Art Eggleton today welcomed the consensus on the text of an Optional Protocol setting new standards governing the involvement of children in armed conflict. During negotiations from January 10 to 21, the international community agreed to a norm that requires states to take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who are under the age of 18 do not take a direct part in hostilities.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict also tackles the issues of voluntary recruitment, compliance, implementation, and international co-operation and assistance. Canada continued its international leadership on war-affected children by playing a key role in the drafting and negotiation of these elements. The Optional Protocol is expected to be formally adopted by the membership of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights during its 56th Session from March 20 to April 28. Canada looks forward to the adoption of the Optional Protocol by the United Nations (UN).

"We are very pleased with the broad scope of this Optional Protocol, which includes significant obligations with respect to non-state actors, compliance with the standards established and international assistance," said Mr. Axworthy. "With its concrete measures to protect war-affected children, it is also a significant milestone in advancing Canada's agenda at the Security Council concerning the protection of civilians in armed conflict."

"I am delighted that, with the Optional Protocol, states are accepting significant new obligations with respect to their armed forces," said Mr. Eggleton. "For our part, we can affirm that the practices of the Canadian Forces are in full compliance with the Optional Protocol. Furthermore, we will entrench our current policy into law."

Last September, the UN Secretary-General released *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict — Towards a Climate of Compliance*, a report requested by Canada. This report urges member states to accelerate the drafting of an Optional Protocol and recommends specific measures to assist in the plight of war-affected children. Canada



will continue its work within the UN to implement the report's recommendations, including during its next Security Council Presidency in April.

Canada will also host two international conferences in the coming year. This spring, Canada and Ghana will co-host a West African conference on war-affected children where the problem is most acute. The conference will examine the protection of these children, the impact of small arms on children and their communities, and practical and sustainable commitments to rehabilitate and reintegrate children affected by conflict in the region.

The second, the International Conference on War-Affected Children, will be held in Canada this fall. It will formulate a plan of action to address the plight of and offer potential solutions for children affected by conflict. UN agencies, governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and youth from all regions of the world will be invited to attend the conference.

These events will contribute to Canada's preparations for the 2001 UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, which will review the achievements of the goals of the 1990 World Summit for Children.

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News Release

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January 26, 2000

(11:40 a.m. EST)

No. 11

AXWORTHY TO VISIT RUSSIA

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will travel to Moscow to attend a meeting of the Multilateral Steering Group of the Middle East Peace Process on February 1 and visit St. Petersburg on February 2.

"The Steering Group meeting will focus on how we can build a broader base for peace in the Middle East," said Mr. Axworthy. "Bringing security and well-being to all people in the region is the ultimate goal of the peace process. This means building common understanding and finding common approaches to issues that transcend national boundaries."

Canada is one of only twelve members of the Steering Group, whose meeting in Moscow will be the second at the ministerial level since its establishment in February 1992. The Steering Group oversees multilateral track activities in five working groups dealing with arms control and regional security, the environment, regional economic development, refugees and water resources. A regional economic summit process, a regional development bank and an international committee to support Palestinian economic development are also part of the multilateral track. Canada is the Gavel of the Refugee Working Group.

Minister Axworthy stated that "our objective in the Refugee Working Group is to help the parties achieve a just and lasting resolution to the Palestinian refugee issue. Canada has also led international efforts to improve the humanitarian conditions of the refugees as they await the conclusion of this crucial element of the peace process."

Mr. Axworthy is also expected to hold a bilateral meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. He will register Canada's continuing concerns about the conflict in Chechnya, where civilian casualties have mounted dramatically in recent days. In St. Petersburg, Minister Axworthy will meet with Governor Vladimir Yakovlev and deliver a speech on Canada-Russia relations, including northern co-operation and human security.

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News Release

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January 26, 2000

(5:10 p.m. EST)

No. 12

AXWORTHY RECEIVES REPORT OF ASSESSMENT MISSION TO SUDAN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy met this afternoon with John Harker who, at the request of the Minister, led a mission to Sudan in December 1999 to examine allegations about human rights abuses, including the practice of slavery. Mr. Harker presented the Minister with the report detailing his observations and findings.

The Minister thanked Mr. Harker and the members of his team for their work and their contribution to Canada's efforts to support international efforts for a negotiated settlement to this long-standing conflict. He also thanked the Government of Sudan and Talisman for their co-operation in facilitating the carrying out of Mr. Harker's mission.

"The report raises important issues of policy which will need to be carefully considered," Mr. Axworthy said. "It will, along with the work of others, including Senator Lois Wilson, help us to determine policy directions and future actions, as we continue our sustained efforts to help bring peace to Sudan."

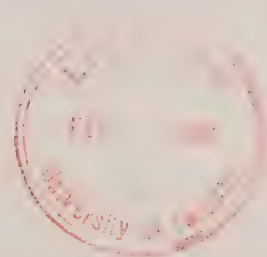
Senator Wilson, who is Canada's special envoy to the Sudan Peace Process, will leave for Africa on January 30. During her trip, she will hold meetings in Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Khartoum and Cairo.

- 30 -

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News Release

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January 27, 2000

(12:00 p.m. EST)

No. 13

CANADA ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL: FIRST YEAR REPORT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today released a report on Canada's roles and achievements during the first year as a member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The report also contains a look ahead to Canada's priorities for the second year of its UNSC term. In its bid for election to a UNSC seat, Canada had defined human security, UNSC leadership and effectiveness, and making the UNSC more open, transparent and responsive as key objectives.

"Canada is a very active member of the Security Council. We are continuously pushing for the Council to broaden its concept of security to include conflict prevention, peacebuilding, human rights and humanitarian issues," said Minister Axworthy. "We will continue to work hard in the second half of our mandate to sustain the momentum that we generated last year."

Achievements reflect Canada's UNSC objectives including:

- launching a major human security initiative on the protection of civilians in armed conflict during the February 1999 UNSC presidency;
- chairing a UNSC working group with a mandate to lock in key recommendations of the Secretary-General's ground-breaking report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict;
- proposing an initiative that successfully broke a UNSC impasse on Iraq, and paved the way for the adoption in December 1999 of a new resolution on Iraq;
- actively chairing the UNSC committee that manages sanctions against the Angolan rebel movement UNITA; and
- securing UNSC agreement in December 1999 to a number of Canadian proposals for making the work of the UNSC more transparent and inclusive, including greater use of more open meeting formats to increase the UNSC's



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interaction with non-members and others who could contribute to the UNSC's deliberations.

"Human security will be Canada's main focus during the remainder of its UNSC mandate," said the Minister. "The action plan for this year includes consolidating the protection of civilians initiative and broadening participation in it beyond the UNSC, promoting more humane and effective UNSC sanctions, advancing the debate on humanitarian intervention and continuing to focus on transparency by including the wider UN membership in UNSC deliberations."

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A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

CANADA ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

"The sovereignty of states remains a fundamental tenet and key measure of peace and security. But it is neither absolute nor a shield behind which the most egregious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms can be protected."

(Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy, UN General Assembly, September 23, 1999)

Introduction

Over the past several years we have witnessed a growing recognition of the relevance of human security. Security, once the sacred domain of the state, is broadening to include individuals, peoples and their concerns. It is increasingly accepted that human security and national sovereignty are two sides of the same coin. They are mutually reinforcing and complimentary.

This past year has seen a marked increase in the number of actions taken in the name of human security around the world. In Kosovo, NATO nations undertook unprecedented military action to stop massive violations of human rights and war crimes, part of an orchestrated campaign of ethnic cleansing against innocent civilians by their own government. In East Timor, an international force was dispatched when rogue elements attacked helpless civilians in order to undo the results of a free and fair poll.

New willingness is emerging to demand and enforce adherence to international humanitarian, human rights and refugee laws and norms. There is also a growing recognition of the validity of Canada's multi-track effort over the past several years to put human security on a standing similar to national sovereignty.

This has been no small task. Canada has worked hard in several forums to make this a reality. In the past year the G-8, NATO, ASEAN and, of course, the UN have all been vital venues to promote this agenda. In our first year on the Security Council Canada used every possible opportunity to underscore, in the words of Minister Axworthy, that "threats to human security — the risks that individuals, communities, people face in their daily lives — often outweigh the risks to security occasioned by conflicts across borders." The following outlines some of the major initiatives Canada undertook on the Council and the most pressing issues and events which occupied the Council's time and energies over the past year.

CANADA ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL: FIRST YEAR REPORT

I. Canada's Agenda

Human Security

Canada took its seat on the Security Council with the belief that humanitarian principles and human rights should be given greater weight in its calculation of when to act. Egregious abuses of human rights tend to be harbingers of significant threats to international peace. Interpretations of the UN Charter must be more in step with the changing nature of conflict and the new challenges it poses, not only to international peace and security, but to fundamental values. Increasingly, conflicts are intrastate and their casualties overwhelmingly civilian, very often as deliberate targets, not collateral effects. In the absence of a Charter amendment which, given the veto, is close to impossible, the principles of state sovereignty and human security must be reconciled in practice. This necessitates a political, not a legal or constitutional, decision by the Council on how to respond.

Canada's seat on the Security Council is a powerful vehicle to drive this agenda. However, it should be noted that it was not the only means at our disposal, nor was it always the best means, given current political realities, to push our agenda forward. Having said that, Canada was able to accomplish much in terms of the human security agenda through the judicious use of this venue in 1999.

Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

At the top of this list was the Secretary-General's Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict. During our presidency of the Council in February 1999, and in a presidential statement delivered by Minister Axworthy, we called on the Secretary-General to produce a report on the devastating effects of armed conflict on civilians and outline a series of recommendations that would better ensure their protection. The Minister spoke about how civilians were no longer innocent casualties of war, but often the targets. He outlined the challenges this disturbing reality presents to the international community and called for the Council to better ready itself and the United Nations as a whole to deal with them.

The result was the Secretary-General's Report to the Security Council on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict which, along with its forty recommendations, was presented to the Council in September 1999. The Secretary-General painted a stark and disturbing picture. He outlined how conflict destroys individual lives, families and entire societies — how it often results in people being "forced from their homes, driven to borders that are open one minute and closed the next, forced into hiding, separated from their families, made to act as human shields, stripped of their identities and

callously killed." His recommendations outlined key measures the Council and the international community should take to increase both the legal and physical protection of civilians. The key recommendations include efforts to: strengthen the UN's ability to respond rapidly when a crisis breaks out, through rapidly deployable units and mission headquarters; impose arms embargoes; make greater use of targeted sanctions against belligerents; underscore that civilians must have unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance; authorize missions to close down hate media outlets; and consider the imposition of appropriate enforcement action in the face of massive and ongoing abuses.

In order to maintain the momentum of the report, Canada now chairs an informal working group of the Security Council to further lock in its key recommendations when we again assume the Council's presidency in April. Canada will also establish a "friends of civilians in armed conflict" group which will include like-minded governments, UN departments and others within the UN system, as well as members of civil society and the NGO community. Canada will attempt to ensure that the recommendations are implemented horizontally in specific operational situations as they arise, such as decisions on peacekeeping mandates (e.g. Sierra Leone) and sanctions regimes.

We are also working with the International Peace Academy on a political and humanitarian assessment report on sanctions. In the Secretary-General's report, sanctions are an essential tool to protect civilians in armed conflict. The assessment will propose concrete options for making sanctions more humane and effective. The report and its recommendations will be made available in March and presented to the Council during Canada's April presidency. Canada will also follow up this report in the Peacekeeping Committee of the UN General Assembly.

More Effective and Humane Sanctions

In line with the report being produced with the International Peace Academy, Canada believes that the current thinking on sanctions must be updated. Sanctions, if they are not implemented judiciously, can often harm civilians. Comprehensive sanctions often result in high humanitarian costs, the disruption of trade, the emergence of a black market and the requirement of further humanitarian assistance. They can also have a negative impact on social infrastructures, resulting in higher levels of dependence on, and sympathy for the regime, both domestically and internationally.

The Council has at times resorted to sanctions as a substitute for the use of force when the will for the latter has been lacking; the results, however, have been mixed. Their indiscriminate qualities and potential for harming innocent civilians argue for "smarter", more focussed sanctions and increased enforcement capacity. Such sanctions include the freezing of assets of regime members and those who support them; suspension of credit and grant aid to the government; denial and limitation of access to overseas

financial markets; embargoes on luxury goods; flight bans; diplomatic isolation; and denial of travel for members of the regime and their families.

As Chair of the Angola Sanctions Committee, Canada has explored ways of tightening the sanctions against UNITA, particularly curbing the illicit trade in arms and diamonds, and has set up an expert panel that will propose additional practical measures for consideration by the Council. The acceptance of these measures will be a test of Council resolve in making sanctions in Africa work. The combination of these initiatives establishes Canada as a leader on sanctions reform and provides one focus for the remainder of our Council term.

Greater Transparency

Canada believes that when dealing with issues like sanctions, the Security Council should be more transparent. Deliberations and decision making continue to be dominated by private "informal consultations" limited to Council members. Despite sometimes strong resistance from the P-5 (Permanent Members China, France, Russia, U.K. and U.S.), we have made considerable progress on our proposal to open informal consultations to non-Council members in cases where it could have a positive effect on conflict prevention and resolution. In December, for example, the Council agreed to a number of Canadian transparency proposals, including greater use of more inclusive meeting formats. We have strongly advocated more frequent use of thematic discussions and the "orientation debate," a meeting of the Council open to non-members which allows for an airing of views on an issue before the Council takes a decision. When Canada joined, open Council debates were rare; now we are working with like-minded members to bring about a new openness.

We have drawn to the attention of the Secretary-General and the P-5 our objection to the continuing practice of restricted private P-5 meetings on issues that concern or require decision by the full Council. To counter the culture of secrecy further, Canada provides regular, detailed briefings to non-Council members, including both traditional and new partners, and we continue to post a wealth of information on Council activity on our Security Council Web site at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ONU2000UN>.

More generally, Canada has supported bringing greater transparency to the UN system as a whole in the form of public diplomacy. Public diplomacy has had a very positive impact on issues and events relating to the human security agenda. The participation of non-governmental organizations, as well as public and state actors, has been a powerful instrument in the efforts to eliminate threats to the security of civilians. For instance, the coming together of government, NGOs and civil society was instrumental in the success of the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines.

II. Council Responses to Key Issues

Kosovo

One of the key events of the past year and of the Council's first post-Cold War decade was the Kosovo crisis, resulting in NATO action.

The UN was actively engaged in the Kosovo situation in the months leading up to the start of the hostilities. The Security Council, acting under Chapter VII, issued several resolutions regarding the Kosovo crisis, which identified the conflict as a threat to peace and security in the region. These resolutions imposed clear legal obligation on the FRY to respect a cease fire, protect the civilian population and limit the deployment of its security forces in Kosovo, which the FRY failed to meet.

Faced with a humanitarian crisis in Kosovo, the NATO allies acted. A Russian resolution to end NATO action was defeated by a vote of 12 opposed, 3 in favour and no abstentions, indicating strong support for the intervention.

During the NATO air campaign, however, Canada continued to press for the Kosovo crisis to be brought back to the Security Council. It was, and the Council adopted a resolution bringing the conflict to a close — a resolution, it should be noted, that was negotiated at the G-8 Foreign Ministers meeting in Cologne.

The action in Kosovo was a clear triumph of human rights and humanitarianism over tyranny. As Minister Axworthy said at the G-8 meeting in Cologne, "Kosovo was a recognition that the human security agenda is an effort to construct a global society in which the safety of people is an international priority and a motivating force for international action; where international humanitarian standards and the rule of law are advanced and woven into a coherent web protecting the individual; where those who violate these standards are held fully accountable; and where our global, regional and bilateral institutions are designed and equipped to enhance and enforce these standards."

Iraq

When Canada joined the Council in January following the U.S.-U.K. bombings of Iraq a month earlier, the Council was at an impasse. We took the initiative in January to help extricate the P-5 from their entrenched positions and move the issue forward. Under the Canadian plan, expert panels were set up to review disarmament, humanitarian, Kuwaiti prisoner of war and reparations issues. On the basis of the panel reports, the outline of a new Council policy on Iraq began to emerge. An "omnibus" draft resolution, based largely on the three panel reports, became the focus of protracted P-5

negotiations. Finally adopted in December, the resolution failed to attract P-5 consensus, with Russia, France and China abstaining on the vote.

The resolution provides for the restoration of UN weapons inspections, enhanced humanitarian measures and, pending Iraqi compliance with disarmament requirements, an eventual relaxation of sanctions. The resolution attempts to strike a balance between, on the one hand, Iraq's obligations to adhere to all previous Council resolutions and to agree to the return of weapons inspectors, and on the other, addressing the humanitarian situation. Canada pushed for sanctions relief targeted at the civilian population, in the form of increased humanitarian aid and essential civilian requirements such as vaccines and water infrastructure equipment. In a special mission to Iraq in November 1999, a Canadian delegation met with Iraqi officials on these issues and encouraged them to comply with their international obligations. Similar efforts at opening a constructive dialogue with Iraq to promote its compliance will continue in the new year.

Africa

The response of the Council to conflicts and crises in Africa has on occasion not been as timely or as robust as many situations have required. The Council has, for a combination of reasons, often preferred to leave responsibility for conflict prevention, mediation and resolution, to regional and sub-regional organizations and leaders. And sanctions regimes have failed to have any decisive impact. The UN's peacekeeping record is also mixed.

In Angola, where renewed hostilities led to the termination of the UN mission (MONUA), the Council mandated only a small follow-on presence limited to representation, monitoring human rights and encouraging dialogue between two sides more intent on waging war than talking (Luanda continues to oppose a political role for the UN office).

On the positive side, an important success was registered in October with the authorization of a new 6000-strong UN mission force (UNAMSIL) to help implement the peace agreement in Sierra Leone. This "hybrid" mission is deploying alongside the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG), which had hitherto shouldered the burdens of protecting the government and people of Sierra Leone at enormous human and financial cost, and which will continue to perform key security roles. Canada left its mark on UNAMSIL by insisting that the mission be given an explicit mandate, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, to protect civilians. In anticipation of ECOMOG's withdrawal, Canada also argued for provisions to upgrade UNAMSIL's troop strength and mandate to enable it to assume key ECOMOG security functions. Canada also contributed \$9 million to ECOMOG and set up a program to disarm, demobilize and reintegrate the child soldiers of Sierra Leone.

The UN Mission in the Central African Republic — with Canada being the only non-African nation to contribute troops, and having contributed to peaceful presidential elections there – will be phased out gradually and succeeded by a smaller post-conflict peacebuilding presence.

East Timor

Following the total breakdown in security after the independence referendum, Canada was among the first to call for a peacekeeping intervention. Canada also made efforts within the ASEAN forum to build regional support for United Nations action in East Timor. During the negotiations on the Security Council resolution on East Timor, Canada supported the inclusion of language on the protection of civilians. The following is from Security Council Resolution 1272: "Deeply concerned by the grave humanitarian situation resulting from violence in East Timor and the large-scale displacement and relocation of East Timorese civilians, including large numbers of women and children, Reaffirming the need for all parties to ensure that the rights of refugees and displaced persons are protected, and that they are able to return voluntarily in safety and security to their homes,...the Security Council...authorizes UNTAET to take all necessary measures to fulfil its mandate".

Canada also called for the early transition from the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET), which is paid for by its limited number of participants, to its UN successor the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), which will be funded through the obligatory system of assessed contributions. This will enable more inclusive participation and universal cost sharing in the East Timor peace effort, as foreseen in the Charter.

Afghanistan

Regarding Afghanistan, while Canada endorsed the sanctions against the Taliban as a strong statement against terrorism, we maintained that other egregious Taliban practices, particularly human rights violations against women and girls, should not go unsanctioned. We shall return to this issue in the coming year.

III. Key Constraints and Challenges to Action

Humanitarian Intervention

One of the greatest challenges facing the international community today is how to react in the face of massive abuses of human rights and ongoing humanitarian crises. Kosovo and East Timor, each in its own way, brought this challenge to a head. Kosovo, in particular, challenged the heretofore undisputed supremacy of state sovereignty. The

NATO military action over Kosovo was a recognition that the rights of people also have weight. The developments on this front bolster the contention that legitimacy derives from the sanction of the governed and sovereignty comes with certain irrefutable responsibilities.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his address to the opening session of the 54th General Assembly put this issue squarely on the international agenda when he said, "State sovereignty, in its most basic sense, is being redefined...The state is now widely understood to be the servant of its people, and not vice versa."

The Secretary-General said that gross and systematic abuses of human rights must not be allowed to stand, noting that nothing in the UN Charter precludes a recognition that there are rights beyond borders. He challenged members of the Security Council and the UN more broadly to unite behind legitimate intervention to protect civilians. Mr. Annan has brought this challenge to international peace and security to the heart of the global agenda.

At the recent G-8 Foreign Ministers meeting in Berlin, Canada presented a paper outlining our views on humanitarian intervention and how we can move discussions and actions on it forward. In the coming year, at the United Nations and elsewhere, Canada will undertake to refine further the concept of humanitarian intervention.

International Security and Human Security

Fundamental constraints to the Council's effectiveness are both the mandate assigned to it in the UN Charter and the reticence of many member states, including some Permanent Members, to broaden the definition of security to encompass new human security imperatives. The Charter clearly prescribes aggression against states as a threat to international peace and security, and provides legitimate authority to the Security Council to decide on measures, including the use of force, to restore order. The Charter does not, however, contemplate as explicit a response to intrastate threats to peace, including acts by governments against their own subjects, even when they have destabilizing consequences for neighbouring countries and whole regions. While the UN has quite often found ways to respond to humanitarian crises under existing criteria, there is mounting concern that it is not fully equipped to deal with the increasing frequency of internal conflicts.

The Charter's provisions on the sovereign equality of all its member states and non-intervention in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state continue to be interpreted by some as privileging the security of the state over that of individuals, and providing a basis for opposition to Council action on behalf of human security. At the same time, however, human rights and humanitarian norms have been gaining strength through a gradual accumulation of treaties, covenants, other

instruments and action, including most recently the creation of international criminal tribunals and the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. These developments have contributed to an erosion of state sovereignty when it conflicts with human rights and humanitarian principles.

The entire corpus of language framing the UN's role and mandate, including the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other conventions, treaties and protocols, argues for a basis for action on humanitarian and human rights grounds to protect people, their rights and their freedoms. For instance, the covenants on human rights, adopted in 1966 and which entered into force a decade later, are legally binding on state parties. On the basis of their sovereign right to do so, states have therefore become Parties to conventions, treaties and protocols and committed themselves to fulfill certain obligations derived from those international legal instruments. Such developments limit state sovereignty when it conflicts with already agreed upon human rights or norms pertaining to international humanitarian laws. The effective enforcement of those international legal instruments rests, *inter alia*, with the political will of UN member states, especially the members of the Security Council, to take the necessary action to protect people.

UN Peacekeeping

There is a sharp contrast between the readiness earlier this decade to deploy major operations (e.g. Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique, Croatia, Bosnia) and the reticence apparent today. While new missions in Sierra Leone and East Timor are encouraging signs of a resurgence in will, the negotiations to establish them were difficult, particularly on mandate and funding issues. This same reticence will likely characterize decision making on UN peacekeeping for the foreseeable future. Canada supports a change in the approach to the authorization of UN missions and the deployment of peacekeeping forces, so that we do not see a repeat of the humanitarian and human rights catastrophes that so scarred the past decade.

Many of the UN's recent and current military deployments, while authorized by the Council, are coalitions of the willing no longer under UN command. With the exception of UNAMSIL, most UN missions in Africa have been smaller, largely symbolic deployments of civilians and military or police observers monitoring the work done by other organizations. In the Balkans, NATO, not the UN, is the principal military peacekeeper. The role assigned to the UN in Kosovo, while substantial, is of a civilian nature and poorly resourced. This devolution of military roles to other bodies represents a retreat of the UN from the multilateral collective security mandate at its heart. Canada opposes the increasing reliance on regional or sub-regional groups for both peacekeeping and other security roles, as they will produce uneven results because of the varying capacities for carrying out those functions in different parts of the world.

The establishment of several large peace support missions this year has exposed capacity and funding gaps (evidenced by a growing reliance on trust funds) at the UN for managing this new type of operation. Of particular concern, given the increasingly important role played by civilians in protectorate-type operations in Kosovo and East Timor, is the UN's inability to deploy civilian experts quickly and effectively. A reluctance to assign Chapter VII peace enforcement roles to UN-commanded forces fuels the tendency to contract out robust military action to coalitions of the willing. We need to reflect further on the efficacy of coalitions versus UN-commanded operations in potentially high-intensity missions.

Canada remains a strong supporter of the life-saving capacity of a well-funded and supported peacekeeping or peacebuilding mission. Canada has taken on a significant role in Haiti, which remains a regional concern. When the Security Council decided not to renew its mission to Haiti, Canada was instrumental in having its mandate and that of the existing General Assembly mission combined into the new International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH) under the sole authority of the General Assembly. This new mission will continue to carry out policing and human rights functions as well as undertake issues related to justice. Canada will continue to remain engaged in Haiti.

P-5 Disunity and the Veto

Council unity remains elusive on a wide range of issues. Secretary-General Annan recently lamented what he called a "progressive erosion of the collegial atmosphere and spirit of collective responsibility" that marked the early post-Cold War Council. The result is a diminishing capacity to act. Political and policy differences among the P-5, particularly combined with the veto and the need for consensus, create barriers to action. These constraints can encourage the resort to other forums with more flexible and serviceable procedures and a negotiating climate more conducive to compromise and consensus. For example, the Kosovo mission was undertaken outside the bounds of the United Nations precisely because it was clear to all, that two Permanent Members would have vetoed any resolution calling for action.

National vs. Collective Interest

The continuing tendency of some of the Council's Permanent Members to use the Council for advancing national rather than collective interests is another inhibiting factor to Council effectiveness. Last February, Canada found the veto of UNPREDEP, the UN's preventive deployment mission in Macedonia, on the eve of the war in Kosovo, to be particularly counterproductive.

Conclusion

Throughout 1999, the Council continued its work at a high tempo, leading the *New York Times* to comment that while the Council was doing more and more things, the things it did seemed to matter less and less. While accurate in reference to Council paralysis on key issues early in the year, this judgement may yet prove to be overly harsh. An encouraging feature of the Council in 1999 has been its capacity for re-engagement amid major failures of collective action. Moreover, sharp disagreements among Council members on certain issues, including fundamental ones such as enforcement action in Kosovo, do not necessarily preclude consensus or meaningful engagement on others such as East Timor and Sierra Leone.

To be an indispensable tool of multilateral security, the Council must accommodate itself to the changed security context. This year the Council suffered a loss of authority when it failed to do so. As Minister Axworthy said to the Council, "The Security Council has a vital role to play in confronting threats. There should be no mistake. Promoting the protection of civilians in armed conflict is no sideshow to the Council's mandate for ensuring international peace and security. On the contrary, it is central to it."

When Canada undertook its human security agenda, few predicted that it would have the legitimacy it does today. The centrality of human security to the events of the past year is testament to the emerging change from Cold War thinking to a new approach better equipped to deal with the emerging threats to global, ie. human, security.

In the year ahead, Canada, having laid a strong foundation in its first year on the Security Council, will pursue a vigorous agenda. We will seek progress on instituting the key recommendations of the Secretary-General's Report on Civilians in Armed Conflict – especially on physical protection.

Canada will also place the issues of targeted sanctions, humanitarian intervention, transparency and war-affected children high on its agenda at the United Nations and elsewhere.

News Release

www.dfaic-maeci.gc.ca

January 28, 2000

(8:00 a.m. EST)

No. 14

AXWORTHY LAUNCHES CANADIAN REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE UN, RECEIVES MCGILL INTERNATIONAL REVIEW AWARD

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy launched the second edition of the *Canadian Reference Guide to the United Nations*, a Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade publication outlining Canada's involvement in the UN as well as UN programs, all its specialized agencies and institutions, and contact and Web site information. The book was launched last night during the 10th annual McGill Model UN Assembly, where Mr. Axworthy was the keynote speaker.

"I am delighted to be launching the *Canadian Reference Guide to the UN* at this McGill forum for students, one which promises interesting debates on issues affecting the international arena," said Minister Axworthy. "The Guide is a practical reference tool aimed at students, teachers, the general public and the news media — anyone who is interested in learning more about the United Nations."

At the event, the Minister was also presented with the McGill International Review Award of Distinction, an award given to an individual who has improved the quality of life for people around the world, made a significant contribution to the field of human rights and has made an important contribution to the peaceful conduct of states. The award was given to Mr. Axworthy by McGill University in recognition of his work in introducing human security in the field of human rights.

The McGill Model UN Assembly has become one of the largest inter-university model UN events in Canada, and attracts over 1000 student delegates from across North America and Europe.

Other guest speakers at the McGill Model UN opening ceremonies included Geoffrey Pearson, National President of the UN Association of Canada and former Canadian Ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Thomas Park, Secretary-General of the McGill Model UN Assembly.

Electronic copies of the *Canadian Reference Guide to the United Nations* are also available under the title "Canadians in the World" at <http://www.canschool.org>, a Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade educational Web site featuring a



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diverse menu of topics about Canada's international relations, humanitarian efforts, culture, science, sports and business.

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Print copies of the *Canadian Reference Guide to the UN* may be obtained by calling 1-800-267-8376 or (613) 944-4000, by fax at (613) 996-9709, or by writing to Enquiries Service (SXCI), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2.

News Release

January 31, 2000

(10:10 a.m. EST)

No. 15

CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN FIRST CONFÉRENCE DES FEMMES DE LA FRANCOPHONIE IN LUXEMBOURG

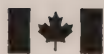
Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Francophonie) Ron J. Duhamel will head the Canadian delegation — which includes Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women) Hedy Fry — that will be participating in the first Conférence des femmes de la Francophonie, to be held in Luxembourg on February 4 and 5. The theme of the conference will be "Women, Power and Development."

More than 50 states and governments that are members, associate members and observers of La Francophonie will be represented. The meeting will look at progress made on the status of women's issues in the Francophone world since the UN World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, and set new strategic objectives for the years ahead.

"On the eve of the Luxembourg conference, I would like to draw attention and pay tribute to the determination of women in La Francophonie member countries who have worked for years to promote equality between men and women, within government institutions as well as in civil society," said Mr. Duhamel. "Countries that are members of La Francophonie represent nearly one quarter of the world's nations, and it is therefore essential that we be able to make our views clearly known on issues that are crucial to the very future of all women and men."

"Throughout the Francophonie, as in Canada, our future depends on empowering women at all levels of society to participate in economic, social and political life," said Dr. Fry. "It depends on women having the opportunity to voice their concerns, offer their perspectives and contribute their full range of talents."

The Luxembourg conference, which was endorsed by the heads of state and government who attended the 8th Francophonie Summit in Moncton, will address many of the same issues as the Beijing conference. One of the main goals of the conference is to make a contribution to the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United



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Nations, set for June 2000 in New York City, entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century." Two representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGO) will join the Canadian delegation to Luxembourg.

En route to Luxembourg, Mr. Duhamel will stop in Belgium where he is expected to meet with the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister (Francophonie), Louis Michel, and with the ministre-président du Gouvernement de la Communauté française de Belgique, Hervé Hasquin. Mr. Duhamel will also address the representatives of the NGO, Landmine Monitor Researchers.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

February 3, 2000

(5:30 p.m. EST)

No. 16

AXWORTHY PARTICIPATES IN FIRST ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today participated in the first annual consultations with civil society on nuclear issues being held in Ottawa on February 3 and 4. At a roundtable discussion today, the Minister was briefed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic and government participants on earlier sessions on international security, non-proliferation and disarmament issues.

Following an exchange of views on these questions and their implications for Canadian policy, Mr. Axworthy thanked the participants for contributing their time and ideas to this new process of consultations.

"A robust nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime is vital for Canadian and global security, and these consultations are an important way to further that end," said Minister Axworthy. "Drawing on the experience and expertise available in Canada's NGO and academic communities enhances our effectiveness in international efforts to control, reduce, and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons."

The government agreed to hold consultations in its April 1999 response to the December 1998 Report of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, *Canada and the Nuclear Challenge: Reducing the Political Value of Nuclear Weapons for the Twenty-First Century*. Based on the recommendations of a steering group of NGO, academic and government representatives, some 20 experts from across Canada were invited to participate, together with government specialists.

Mr. Axworthy welcomed the consultations as an opportunity to discuss Canadian strategy in the run-up to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conference to be held in New York from April 24 to May 19. The Minister also updated the participants on Canada's successful efforts at the NATO Ministerial in Brussels last December, when NATO agreed to review policy options on non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament.



Topics for discussion on the second and final day of consultations will include the NPT and related agreements; nuclear weapons and NATO; ballistic missiles; and verification and controls.

A report on the proceedings will be made available on the Department's Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Division Web site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/arms/menu-e.asp>.

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

February 4, 2000

(10:30 a.m. EST)

No. 17

AXWORTHY TO HOST CANADA-EU TALKS WITH PORTUGUESE STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTER GAMA AND EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER PATTEN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Portugal's Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, Jaime Gama, and the European Commission's External Relations Commissioner, Christopher Patten, will visit Ottawa on February 6 and 7 to take part in a Canada-European Union (EU) Transatlantic Ministerial meeting. Portugal holds the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU until June 30.

"This meeting is an opportunity to further enhance Canada-EU relations and to review recent developments within the European Union and the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency, in preparation for the next Canada-EU Summit, being held June 26 in Portugal," said Minister Axworthy. "We will also discuss human security issues of particular concern to Canada, including conflict prevention, war-affected children, arms control and non-proliferation."

The Minister added that in the February 7 meeting he will address Northern co-operation in the Arctic, following up on last December's Canada-EU statement on this issue. The joint statement provides a framework for the development of common international policies that promote sustainable development in the North, while taking account of its environmental fragility and of the particular needs and interests of its Indigenous peoples.

During their visit, Minister Gama and Commissioner Patten will also meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

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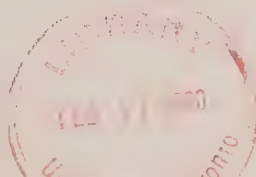
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News Release

www.dfaif-maeci.gc.ca

February 7, 2000

(4:25 p.m. EST)

No. 18

SECRETARY OF STATE KILGOUR TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will attend the International Drug Control Summit being held in Washington on February 8 and 9. Organized by the U.S. Congress and the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP), this annual meeting brings together parliamentarians and senior officials from the United States, the European Community, Japan and Canada to review global efforts to confront the harm caused by the abuse of, and trafficking in, illicit drugs.

"The threat posed by illicit drugs will not be countered with simplistic solutions. We must address both supply and demand," said Kilgour. "The range of issues to be addressed at this meeting reflects this balanced approach."

Participants will examine the role of parliamentarians in developing national and international responses to the threat of illicit drugs. They will consider all aspects of the problem including measures to promote reduction in demand, improve law enforcement and counter money laundering. They will also review progress in developing alternative economic activities to replace the cultivation and production of narcotic drugs with special attention paid to the work of the UNDCP. A particular focus of the summit will be placed on the situations in Latin America and Central Asia.

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News Release

February 8, 2000

(2:20 p.m. EST)

No. 19

CANADA SATISFIED WITH ACHIEVEMENTS OF FIRST CONFÉRENCE DES FEMMES DE LA FRANCOPHONIE IN LUXEMBOURG

Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Francophonie) Ron J. Duhamel, head of the Canadian delegation to the first Conférence des femmes de la Francophonie — which included Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women) Hedy Fry — applauded the results of this two-day event. The conference, which was held in Luxembourg, led to the systematic reference to and application within the Francophonie of specific issues concerning women and men in the development, delivery, follow-up and assessment of policies.

"We were very pleased to witness the support within the Francophonie for the adoption of an integrated approach to gender equality, and for the recognition of the role of civil society," said Mr. Duhamel. "We were also happy with the conference's unanimous adoption of the declaration, which testifies to the progress made, and with the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as members of national delegations to the conference."

In a presentation to the conference, Dr. Fry noted Canada's experience in implementing a comprehensive approach to gender equality. Thanks to its leadership in this area, Canada was one of five member states invited to share their experiences. "I was honoured to be asked to make a presentation at this landmark conference," Dr. Fry said. "The member states of the Francophonie regard Canada as a world leader in developing a gender-mainstreaming system that can be successfully implemented within the machinery of government."

Dr. Fry's presentation's highlighted Canada's expertise and growing success in implementing gender-based analysis (GBA), a gender-mainstreaming tool that grew out of the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). GBA is used to understand social processes and respond with informed, effective and equitable options for policies, programs and legislation. Dr. Fry also discussed policy research and the funding of NGOs as other important mechanisms the Canadian government employs to further women's equality.

The conference, which ended February 5, gathered more than 300 delegates, including 250 women, from 55 states and participating governments, associated and observing



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countries of the Francophonie, along with representatives from international NGOs, civil society, regional and international organizations, and the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie. Two members of Canadian NGOs were part of the Canadian delegation.

In his capacity as president of the Conférence des ministres de la Francophonie, Mr. Duhamel delivered the opening remarks at the conference, replacing Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

February 8, 2000

(6:00 p.m. EST)

No. 20

MINISTER PETTIGREW WELCOMES START OF AGRICULTURE AND SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS AT WTO

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew welcomed today's agreement by all 135 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to launch new negotiations aimed at further liberalizing international trade in agriculture and services. The negotiations will be carried out in special sessions of the Council for Trade in Services and the Committee on Agriculture, beginning at the end of February.

"Canada strongly supports the launch of new negotiations in agriculture and services, both of which are sectors of vital economic importance to Canada," said Minister Pettigrew. "Today's agreement confirms that progress on the WTO's built-in agenda is continuing as scheduled. While these negotiations will take time, we are committed to promoting Canadian interests and opening new markets so that our exporters can continue creating high-value jobs here at home."

"Canadian farmers have been devastated by the impact of the high-level export subsidies of our trading partners," said Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief. "It is vitally important to Canadian producers that the world's agriculture trading nations get on with the task of reducing trade-distorting subsidies that have devastated the incomes of our grain farmers and other producers of export-oriented commodities."

Canada's Ambassador to the WTO, Sergio Marchi, was elected today by the WTO membership to chair the Council for Trade in Services, the body that will carry out the services negotiations. Minister Pettigrew noted, "It is a particular honour for a newly arrived ambassador to be entrusted by the WTO membership with such a responsibility. Given the importance of the services industry to Canada's economy and the strong interest of many Canadians in how these negotiations proceed, this is a very welcome decision. And let me assure Canadians, our public health and education systems will not be on the negotiating table."

Minister Pettigrew added that the selection of a Canadian to chair the Services Council is further demonstration of the leadership role Canada is playing in building a strong rules-based international trading system.



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The Government of Canada continues to consult widely on all international trade issues.

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

February 9, 2000

(6:30 p.m. EST)

No. 21

AXWORTHY TO SIGN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM CONVENTION DURING VISIT TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy today announced he will travel to New York and Washington, D.C., on February 10 and 11.

On February 10 at UN Headquarters, Minister Axworthy will sign the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. "Canada has been at the forefront of efforts aimed at fighting terrorism, through our work within the UN, the G-8 and other international fora," said Mr. Axworthy. "International co-operation is essential in the fight against terrorist crime. We have and will continue to strongly support measures to strengthen the international legal regime against terrorists."

Later that day, Mr. Axworthy will be the keynote speaker at New York University's School of Law. The Minister will give his address entitled "Humanitarian Interventions and Humanitarian Constraints" at the annual NYU/International Committee of the Red Cross Seminar for Diplomats on International Humanitarian Law.

"The legitimacy of humanitarian intervention rests on the UN Charter, developments in international humanitarian and human rights law, and, perhaps most significantly, on Security Council practice," said Mr. Axworthy. "However, despite all of this, the principle of humanitarian intervention is not yet universally accepted. An open debate is needed on the issue of whether and when intervention represents an appropriate course of action."

While in New York, the Minister will also discuss human security issues with members of the World Policy Institute, a prestigious research group and think tank that seeks to influence foreign policy and public opinion on international affairs.

In Washington on February 11, he will meet with César Gaviria, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) and address the OAS Permanent Council, regarding Canadian preparations and priorities for the 30th General Assembly of the OAS, to be held in Windsor, Ontario, from June 4 to 6. In his address, Mr. Axworthy will touch on key elements of the Windsor agenda, including hemispheric initiatives on



human security, institutional reform of the OAS and the participation of civil society in the Organization. This year marks the tenth anniversary of Canada's membership in the OAS.

"We are looking forward to hosting this year's General Assembly. Canada's presence in the OAS is very important, and the General Assembly will be an ideal forum for us to further advance key foreign policy objectives including human security, indigenous rights and human rights," said Mr. Axworthy.

In addition, the Minister will meet with members of Congress in Washington to discuss bilateral matters such as Section 110, Garrison Diversion and Devils Lake. For many years, Canada has opposed the Garrison Diversion and plans for an outlet from Devils Lake, as both projects involve interbasin diversions of water into Manitoba. The Government of Canada's opposition to these projects is based on the costly, unpredictable and irreversible economic and environmental damage that can occur from such interbasin water diversions.

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News Release

February 10, 2000

(2:00 p.m. EST)

No. 22

CANADA SIGNS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Justice Minister and Attorney General Anne McLellan, and Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay today announced that Canada has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. The Convention is designed to assist in preventing the territories of signatory states from being used as bases for terrorist fund-raising activities. It also provides a framework for the extradition or prosecution of those who raise or provide funds to terrorists. Mr. Axworthy signed the Convention at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

"Canada has expressed strong support for and has chaired the negotiating committee for this Convention," said Mr. Axworthy. "As well as fighting terrorist fundraising, it strengthens the powers of the international legal community in blocking terrorists' sources of financial support. The Convention is entirely consistent with existing Canadian policy objectives."

The Convention is intended to complement existing counter-terrorist conventions. It aims to curb terrorist acts by restricting terrorists' sources of funding, through the creation of new offences under international law.

"Terrorism has no national boundaries. The global challenge today is to keep a step ahead of terrorists. Canada is committed to working with its international partners in addressing the serious problem of terrorism in all of its forms," said Ms. McLellan.

"The Convention reflects the commitment of nations to fight terrorism at its source. Canada has a vigorous counter-terrorism program in place that can only be made more effective by this international convention," said Mr. MacAulay.

Canada has been at the forefront of the fight against international terrorism. It has signed all 12 of the existing international counter-terrorism conventions, and ratified 10 of them.



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The Convention was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1999, and has been open for signature since January 10, 2000. Canada was among the first signatories. As of February 10, the Convention had been signed by ten states. It will come into force following the ratification, acceptance, accession or approval of 22 states.

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A backgrounder is attached.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM

The curbing of terrorism fundraising is an integral component of Canada's international efforts to combat terrorism. The United Nations Sixth Committee Working Group, under Canadian chairmanship, successfully concluded negotiations on the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism on October 8, 1999. In addition to chairing the negotiating committee, Canada was instrumental in helping to resolve a number of important issues.

The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1999, and was opened for signature on January 10, 2000. The Convention is intended to complement existing counter-terrorist conventions. It aims to curb terrorist acts by restricting terrorists' sources of funding as well as by defining new offences under international law to close gaps currently used in counter-terrorist legal cases. These new definitions criminalize the provision or collection of funds used or intended to be used to carry out terrorist acts.

The Convention also provides for the civil, criminal or administrative liability of legal entities for offences committed. Finally, the Convention allows for the incorporation of relevant offences that might be identified in subsequent counter-terrorism treaties.

Canada has promoted international co-operation to fight terrorist fundraising in meetings such as the 1996 G-8 Ministerial meeting in Paris and the 1998 G-8 Summit in Birmingham. Canada will continue to strongly support measures and obligations that fight terrorist fundraising and strengthen the international legal regime against terrorists and their sources of funding.

In addition to Canada's role in creating the Convention, Canada has signed all 12 and ratified 10 of the existing international counter-terrorism conventions. Canada continues in its efforts together with its allies in such organizations as the G-8 and the Organization of American States.

To date, ten countries have signed the Convention. Canada urges all countries to sign and adhere to international conventions in the fight against terrorism.

News Release

February 11, 2000

(12:20 p.m. EST)

No. 23

CANADA TO APPEAL WTO PANEL RULING ON AUTOS

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew and Industry Minister John Manley announced today that Canada intends to appeal the recent World Trade Organization (WTO) panel report that found Canadian Auto Pact measures to be inconsistent with Canada's WTO obligations.

"We believe there are compelling legal grounds to appeal aspects of the panel report. An appeal is important in order to seek to clarify the reasoning and the scope of the panel's findings," said Mr. Pettigrew.

"The government will continue to consult closely with the provinces and key industry stakeholders throughout the appeal process," said Mr. Manley. "The Canadian auto industry is strong. Production and employment are at record highs and we offer a highly skilled and productive labour force, competitive labour costs and an excellent business climate."

Canada will file its Notice of Appeal with the WTO prior to the first meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body to be held in March to consider the issue. Proceedings take 60 to 90 days from the date the Notice of Appeal is filed.

The WTO Panel was established in February 1999 to examine complaints from Japan and the European Union that Canadian measures, that accord certain motor vehicle manufacturers an exemption from the applicable 6.1 percent duty on imported vehicles, constitute a violation of Canada's WTO obligations.

The Panel found that the measures are in violation of the most-favoured-nation and national treatment obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), as well as provisions in the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures prohibiting export subsidies. The Panel's final report was circulated to all WTO members and made public today.

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Backgrounders are attached.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

FLOW CHART OF A TYPICAL WTO TRADE DISPUTE

(Time periods for disputes involving exports subsidies is halved)

Request for Consultations

If responding party does not reply within 10 days, or if it does not enter into consultations within 30 days, or at period mutually agreed, the complaining party can request the establishment of a panel (other WTO members with substantial trade interest have 10 days to join the consultations).

Consultations

60 days

Complaining State May Request Panel

The complaining State may request a panel at any time after 60 days from the date the request is received by the other State, provided consultations have not resolved the issue.

Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) Establishes Panel

(usually within 10-30 days)

Panel's Terms of Reference

Composition of the Panel

(within 20 days of the establishment of the panel)

Panel Examination

Unless otherwise agreed, this should not exceed 6 months from composition of the panel.

For cases on prohibited subsidies, it should not exceed 3 months (includes circulation of interim report within 13 to 22 weeks).

Final Panel Report Circulated to Members and DSB

(report circulated to disputing parties a few weeks in advance)

DSB Adopts Panel Report

(not before 20 days of circulation)

Appeal to Appellate Body

(within 60 days of panel
report)

|

Appellate Review

(60 or 90 days)

|

DSB Adopts Appellate Report

(within 30 days of report)

|

**DSB Monitors Implementation of Adopted
Panel/Appellate Body Recommendations**

Within 30 days of adoption, the responding party must inform the
DSB of its intentions regarding the implementation of the
recommendations.

Backgrounder

CHRONOLOGY OF THE CANADA-JAPAN/EU WTO AUTOS DISPUTE

July 1998	Japan requests WTO consultations on certain Canadian measures implementing the Auto Pact
August 1998	EU requests WTO consultations on certain Canadian measures implementing the Auto Pact
August 1998	Consultations with Japan
September 1998	Consultations with the EU
November 1998	Second set of consultations with the EU
February 1, 1999	WTO dispute settlement panel established to examine complaints of Japan and the EU. The United States, Korea and India reserve their rights to participate as third parties.
May 4, 1999	Japan and the EU present their first written submissions
June 1, 1999	Canada presents its counter-submission
June 14-15, 1999	First oral hearing. Third parties (U.S., India and Korea) file their submissions
July 2, 1999	Canada, Japan and the EU file their second written submissions
July 13-14, 1999	Second set of oral hearings
August 6, 1999	Descriptive part of the report released to Parties (Canada, Japan, EU)
October 13, 1999	Interim panel report circulated to Parties
October 27, 1999	Deadline for Parties to comment on "precise aspects" of interim panel report
December 22, 1999	Final panel report circulated to Parties
February 11, 2000	Final panel report circulated to other WTO members

February 11, 2000

(12:40 p.m. EST)

No. 24

PETTIGREW WELCOMES NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA'S INVESTMENT IN NORTHSTAR

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew welcomed today's announcement in Montreal by the National Bank of Canada of a substantial equity investment in Northstar Trade Finance Inc.

Northstar is a partnership between the public and private sector that supports the export financing needs of Canadian small and medium-sized businesses.

"Today's investment is an excellent model for how Canadian banks can help small and medium-sized firms compete in global markets," said Minister Pettigrew. "For me, the biggest winners in Northstar's success will be Canada's smaller exporters who will have expanded access to export financing through the Northstar team."

Northstar Trade Finance Inc. was formed in 1994 as a partnership of public- and private-sector organizations, including the federal government, to provide medium-term financing to foreign buyers, to support export transactions in the \$100 000 to \$5 million range. This market niche is critical to the success of smaller Canadian companies in world markets. Since its inception, Northstar has already facilitated more than \$320 million of Canadian exports, mostly in the emerging markets of Asia and Latin America.

Northstar is based in Vancouver and has regional offices in Calgary, Montreal and Toronto. The National Bank of Canada, based in Montreal, has been most active in Quebec, thus increasing Northstar's reach in that province.

"Quebec has a very rich and unparalleled range of financial institutions to count on to help small businesses meet their financial needs. The National Bank of Canada has recognized this, and has now given this approach a national scope," said Mr. Pettigrew.

Northstar combines the efforts of four Canadian commercial banks and governments in Canada to contribute to the success of Canadian companies worldwide.



In addition to the National Bank of Canada, other Northstar shareholders are the Bank of Montreal, the Royal Bank of Canada, the HSBC Bank of Canada and the Government of British Columbia.

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News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

February 11, 2000

(1:45 p.m. EST)

No. 25

PETTIGREW ADDRESSES FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN CANADA

Minister for International Trade Pierre S. Pettigrew today highlighted both bilateral and international trade co-operation between Canada and France in an address in Montreal to members of the French Chamber of Commerce in Canada (FCCC) and the Montreal business community.

"The French Chamber of Commerce in Canada plays a key role in identifying and creating business opportunities both for French businesses in Canada and for Canadian businesses in France," stated Mr. Pettigrew. "We are always happy to have the opportunity to strengthen our cultural and commercial ties with France."

The FCCC has offices in four Canadian cities: Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto and Vancouver. Its role is to contribute to the development of economic relations between France and Canada.

In his address, Minister Pettigrew gave an account of his discussions with representatives of the business community, government officials and academics during his recent trip to Europe. He also spoke about Canada-France relations and about the renewal of negotiations on agriculture and services within the World Trade Organization.

"Our goal for the 21st century must be to build a world in which people everywhere can enjoy not only prosperity, but also good health, a clean environment, decent working conditions, justice and respect for human rights," said Mr. Pettigrew. "In a nutshell, what our two countries want to do is humanize globalization."

- 30 -



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News Release

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February 14, 2000

(11 a.m. EST)

No. 26

AXWORTHY OUTLINES NEW INITIATIVES TO FURTHER PEACE IN SUDAN

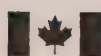
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced new Canadian initiatives aimed at bringing peace to Sudan. They include support for a return visit to southern Sudan by Leonardo Franco, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Sudan; financial assistance to combat the abductions of women and children; an undertaking to use Canada's presidency of the UN Security Council in April to address the humanitarian impact of this conflict on the people of Sudan; and the opening of a Canadian office in Khartoum.

These decisions were made following the first visit to Sudan and the region by Senator Lois Wilson, Canada's Envoy to the Peace Process, and following Mr. Axworthy's review of the report prepared by John Harker, who visited Sudan to investigate allegations of slavery and other reported human rights abuses related to oil development.

"Senator Wilson's and Mr. Harker's reports reinforce our serious concerns regarding the prospects for peace in Sudan, and the need for the international community to support the peace process with renewed vigour," said Mr. Axworthy. "They also highlight the terrible toll that Sudan's tragic and cruel war is taking on the lives of innocent civilians, and underscore the need for the parties to make a firm commitment to reach an early, just and durable peace. Canada continues to believe that engagement and dialogue are the most appropriate tools for advancing the cause of peace in Sudan."

Canada hopes that Mr. Franco will be able to travel to southern Sudan to continue the valuable work that he has already done on the displacement of civilians and other human rights violations in that region. The Government of Canada will provide the necessary support to facilitate a resumption of his mission.

Canada will, as suggested in the Harker report, provide financial assistance to the Committee on the Eradication of Abductions of Women and Children, either directly or through UNICEF. The Committee is rendering an invaluable service in helping to reunite women and children who have been abducted from their families in southern Sudan.



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Canada vigorously supports the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regional peace process and its Declaration of Principles as the only viable means of achieving a just peace in Sudan. Senator Wilson has just returned from a visit to the region to promote the peace process and to urge the parties to reach a negotiated settlement to the conflict. As a priority for Canada's presidency of the UN Security Council in April, Mr. Axworthy will work to ensure that the Security Council exerts its influence to support these regional mediation efforts.

The report of the assessment mission does not recommend the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions in the present situation. However, it makes clear that private-sector interests have a responsibility and an opportunity to make a positive contribution to the human rights situation within their sphere of influence. Talisman Energy, a large Canadian oil company with a significant presence in Sudan, is well-placed to make such a positive contribution. In this connection, Talisman is strongly encouraged to continue its efforts to develop, with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), an effective mechanism for monitoring its operations in Sudan, to ensure that they do not lead to an increase in tensions, or otherwise contribute to the ongoing conflict.

Officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) will meet with representatives of the NGO community on Tuesday, February 15, to discuss ways in which the Government of Canada could support the monitoring of the human rights situation in Sudan.

Finally, Canada will open a Canadian office in Khartoum in order to make a more effective contribution to the peace process, to promote respect for human rights and to offer consular services to Canadians in Sudan. Our embassy in Addis Ababa will remain accredited to the Government of Sudan.

The findings of the assessment mission to Sudan have contributed to our understanding of the situation in that country. Reporting from Senator Wilson, ongoing dialogue with the parties to the Sudan conflict, and discussions in international forums such as the UN Security Council will continue to contribute to the development of Canada's policy.

The report is available on the DFAIT Web site at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreignp/menu-e.asp>. The document has been vetted for personal information only by the Department. The views and opinions contained in the report are not necessarily those of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

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News Release

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February 16, 2000

(3:15 p.m. EST)

No. 27

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS SENTENCING OF BAHÁ'IS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the imposition of death sentences on three members of Iran's Baha'i community.

"Canadians are greatly disturbed by the persecution of Baha'is. The Iranian government's decision to reaffirm death sentences on two individuals of that faith, and to impose the death sentence on yet another, simply for practising their religion, is unacceptable," said the Minister. "We call upon the Government of Iran to suspend the court judgments and to spare the lives of Sirus Zabihi-Moghaddam, Hedayet Kashefi-Najafabadi and Manuchehr Khulusi."

Mr. Axworthy called on the Government of Iran to respect the rights of all minorities and to abide by its international commitments on human rights.

- 30 -

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February 18, 2000

(10:30 a.m. EST)

No. 28

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Suzanne Laporte and reappointment of David Matas to the Board of Directors of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD).

The ICHRDD is an independent body established by an Act of Parliament in 1988. It provides individuals and organizations in other countries with training, consultation and research services to promote the observance of human rights and the full participation of all citizens in the democratic process. The Centre's Board of Directors is made up of 13 members, including three from countries other than Canada. The Centre's President is Warren Allmand.

- 30 -

Biographical notes on the appointees are attached.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Suzanne Laporte is the Assistant Deputy Minister of Human Resources at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Ms. Laporte previously served as Canadian Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire with accreditation to Benin and Niger and as Director General of the Global and Human Issues Bureau at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Laporte also gained experience in numerous aspects of international development and co-operation during her career at the Canadian International Development Agency where she held positions as Director General of Strategic Management for the Americas Branch, Director General of the Middle East and Maghreb Branch, and Counsellor for the Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. She received a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Ottawa.

David Matas was first appointed to the Board of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in 1996. He is a human rights lawyer specializing in immigration and refugee law; has written and litigated extensively on human rights issues; and has appeared in a series of landmark cases before the Supreme Court of Canada in his capacity as Counsel for Amnesty International and the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith. He has also been a member of a number of trial observer missions for the International Commission of Jurists, is Co-Chair of the Canadian Helsinki Watch Group and Counsel to Interamicus. In 1996, he received an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Concordia University in Montreal.

News Release

February 18, 2000

(3:10 p.m. EST)

No. 29

AUSTRALIAN MEASURES ON IMPORTS OF CANADIAN SALMON VIOLATE WTO RULES, CONCLUDES PANEL

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Herb Dhaliwal announced today that a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel has confirmed that Australia's latest measures affecting imports of Canadian salmon are inconsistent with its WTO obligations.

In 1998, the WTO found that Australia's ban on fresh, chilled and frozen Canadian salmon was contrary to its WTO obligations. In 1999, the ruling was confirmed upon appeal. Australia was given until July 6, 1999, to meet its WTO obligations.

Australia's latest measures, announced on July 19, 1999, provided limited access for Canadian fresh, chilled and frozen salmon. The report of the WTO panel, released today, confirms Canada's position that these measures still unnecessarily restrict trade.

"We are extremely disappointed that Australia still has not complied with the WTO rulings," said Minister Pettigrew. "The WTO has now ruled three times in our favour. It is important for all WTO members to live up to their international trade obligations."

"This latest panel ruling confirms once again that the Australian measures, which continue to restrict salmon imports from Canada, are not based on science," Minister Dhaliwal said. "These measures unjustifiably prevent Australian consumers from having access to high-quality Canadian salmon, which is successfully exported to dozens of countries around the world."

Canada held recent discussions with Australia in an attempt to find a mutually acceptable solution that would improve market access for Canadian exporters. Unfortunately, the discussions were not successful.

Under WTO rules, Canada has the right to retaliate against Australia. However, before it can do so, WTO arbitrators will be asked to rule on the extent of retaliation that Canada will be able to take. The arbitration process takes 60 days and is expected to start in the next few days.



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On May 29, 1999, the government announced a 30-day consultation period with Canadians on a proposed list of products imported from Australia that might be subject to a surtax of 100 percent above existing customs duties. The final list of products will be based on comments received and the level of retaliation authorized by the arbitrators.

- 30 -

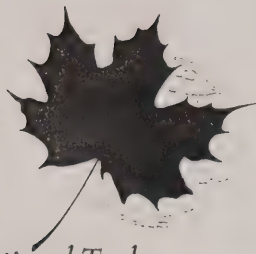
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This document is also available on the DFAIT Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



International Trade
Commerce international

News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

February 18, 2000

(4:45 p.m. EST)

No. 30

CANADA'S 1999 EXPORTS AT RECORD LEVELS

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew announced that record-setting year-end trade statistics released today by Statistics Canada indicate that trade continues to be an important engine of the Canadian economy and a powerful job creator.

"These figures continue to show that Canadian goods are recognized as amongst the best in the world," said Minister Pettigrew. "Exports in almost all sectors increased substantially in 1999 and this was reflected in strong job growth."

Statistics Canada figures show that Canada's merchandise exports in 1999 increased 11.9 percent over 1998 to \$360.6 billion, the best one-year growth since 1995. A 7.7 percent increase in merchandise imports in 1999 resulted in an overall Canadian trade surplus last year of \$33.9 billion.

The fact that exports continue to grow more quickly than the economy as a whole demonstrates the leading role of trade in Canada. Employment growth reflects this continued prosperity. In 1999, 427 000 jobs were created, bringing the unemployment rate down to 6.8 percent last December compared to 8.1 percent in January 1999, the lowest level since April 1976.

"Canada's exceptional trade performance in 1999 reflects the robust state of the Canadian and American economies, as well as the strengthening of economies worldwide, particularly in much of Asia," said Minister Pettigrew.

Exports last year with the United States, our largest trading partner, grew by an impressive 15 percent over 1998, to almost \$310 billion. Faster than expected recovery in some Asian economies also helped spur Canada's export growth in 1999. Exports rebounded from 1998 lows in key Asian markets such as China, South Korea and the Philippines. Exports to Latin American free trade partners Mexico and Chile also increased significantly in 1999.



When all 1999 data becomes available, Minister Pettigrew will deliver an annual report on international trade, providing a fuller statement on Canada's trade and investment performance for 1999.

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

February 25, 2000

(5:25 p.m. EST)

No. 31

CANADA VIEWS ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHECHNYA WITH SERIOUS CONCERN

Russian embassy officials were called into the Department of Foreign Affairs today regarding allegations of serious human rights violations in Chechnya.

"Russia must work together with Canada and the international community to ensure that allegations of human rights abuses in Chechnya are quickly investigated," Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy said after viewing disturbing television footage showing what are reportedly Russian soldiers dumping mutilated bodies in Chechnya. "While we do not have any further information to support the authenticity of these claims, if these allegations are accurate, it confirms some of our worst fears with respect to this conflict."

The conflict in Chechnya was one of the key subjects of Minister Axworthy's meetings with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov in Moscow three weeks ago. At that meeting Mr. Axworthy pressed his Russian counterpart on the immediate need to begin a political process aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement to the conflict, and the requirement for increased access to the region for international humanitarian relief. Canada's concerns about the situation in Chechnya were raised in Ottawa yesterday with visiting Russian Minister and G-8 Sherpa Alexander Livshits. Chechnya has also been the subject of numerous recent interventions by Canada at the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna.

According to Minister Axworthy, it is in Russia's interest to support an investigation into allegations of human rights abuses in Chechnya, including scrutiny by international human rights observers, in order to determine the true extent of the abuses and to identify and bring to justice anyone implicated. Canada welcomes Russian assurances that the video will be handed over to military prosecutors and calls on newly appointed Special Presidential Representative for Human Rights in Chechnya Vladimir Kalamanov to ensure that all allegations are fully investigated.

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News Release

February 29, 2000

(6:10 p.m. EST)

No. 32

CANADA AND RUSSIA RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT TO INCREASE CO-OPERATION ON ABORIGINAL AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) Minister Robert Nault announced today a three-year extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) *Concerning Co-operation on Aboriginal and Northern Development* between Canada and the Russian Federation. Minister Vladimir Goman, Chair of the State Committee on Northern Affairs of the Russian Federation (Goskomsever) and Minister Nault extended the MOU on behalf of their respective governments. Minister Goman was in Ottawa on a two-day visit, February 28 and 29, to enhance Canada-Russia northern co-operation and to reinvigorate the political dialogue on Arctic and Aboriginal affairs.

The MOU, originally signed in October 1997, recognizes that both Canada and the Russian Federation share a wide range of interests and issues unique to Arctic and northern regions. It was set up to aid co-operation and consultation between DIAND and Goskomsever in areas such as northern policy and the socio-economic development of Aboriginal people. In addition to extending the MOU, Ministers Goman and Nault also approved a work plan of new activities designed to promote northern sustainable development and take advantage of emerging socio-economic opportunities in the region.

"I am pleased to extend this MOU between our countries and look forward, through the implementation of our work plan, to enhancing our bilateral co-operation in the Arctic," said Minister Nault. "I am certain that this synergy will act as a catalyst for Aboriginal and Northern development."

During the visit, Minister Goman and Minister Axworthy also presided over the first meeting of the Working Group on the Arctic and the North, under the framework of the Canada-Russian Inter-governmental Economic Commission. The mandate of the Working Group is to bring together Canadian and Russian industry and government officials to explore economic and commercial opportunities in the North.



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"The development of the northern dimension of our bilateral relations with Russia continues to be a priority," said Minister Axworthy. "We are currently following up on the Canada-European Union Summit Joint Statement on Northern Co-operation, in which relations with Russia are a major element. The first meeting of the Working Group on the Arctic and the North is one more important step towards unlocking the economic and commercial potential of the North in both our countries."

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca> and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's Internet site <http://www.inac.gc.ca>.

News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

March 1, 2000

(12:40 p.m. EST)

No. 33

AXWORTHY APPOINTS LIAISON ON CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS' OFFER TO HOST WORLD YOUTH DAY 2002

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Dennis Mills, Member of Parliament for Broadview-Greenwood (Ontario), as government liaison with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB). The CCCC has offered to host World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002. The final decision on the event's venue will be announced by Pope John Paul II on August 20, at the conclusion of the 15th World Youth Day, being held this year in Rome.

"A graduate of Toronto's St. Michael's College, and Member of the Order of St. Michael's, Mr. Mills will contribute his skills as an effective and well-spoken parliamentarian to help the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops succeed in their proposal to host the 2002 World Youth Day in Toronto," said Mr. Axworthy. "The occasion would bring together youth from Canada and from all regions of the globe to join in prayers for world peace and reconciliation."

Mr. Mills was first elected to the House of Commons in 1988. From 1980 to 1984, he was Senior Policy Advisor to the Cabinet Committee on Communications.

Initiated in 1984 by Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day is celebrated every two years. Approximately two million young people will gather in Rome in August to celebrate the *Jubilee of Youth*, theme of this year's World Youth Day.

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News Release

March 1, 2000

(4:00 p.m. EST)

No. 34

VISIT TO OTTAWA BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced that the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Koichiro Matsuura, will arrive tonight in Ottawa for a two-day official visit.

During his stay, Mr. Matsuura will make a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Chrétien and will meet with several ministers, in particular Mr. Axworthy, Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps, Minister of International Co-operation Maria Minna, and Auditor General of Canada Denis Desautels.

"UNESCO is preparing to modernize the organization," stated Mr. Axworthy. "Our meetings will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss in greater detail the major reforms that Mr. Matsuura hopes to undertake within the organization and at the same time, share our points of view and concerns about the organization's future."

Mr. Axworthy will also raise with Mr. Matsuura Montreal's bid to be the headquarters of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

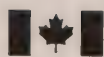
This visit to a member state of UNESCO is one of the first by the Director-General of UNESCO since he took office in November 1999.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site:
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International Trade
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News Release

www.dfa.it-ma.eci.gc.ca

March 3, 2000

(9:05 a.m. EST)

No. 35

KILGOUR TO LEAD LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP TRADE MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA

Minister for International Trade Pierre S. Pettigrew announced today that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour will lead a partnership trade mission to South Africa from March 6 to 10.

"My goal with this trip to South Africa is to help Canadian businesses reach out to potential partners and forge new relationships," said Kilgour. "These new relationships can both create jobs in Canada and help South Africa improve the skills of its workforce. We will profile and promote Canada as a provider of quality services and products in the area of learning and technology."

The partnership trade mission to South Africa will focus on learning and the application of technology as a means to deliver knowledge and training. The objectives of the mission are to promote advanced learning technologies, to share with South Africans the lessons learned from the Canadian experience in various key areas, and to establish a framework for increasing partnerships in the knowledge industry.

Kilgour and 16 trade mission delegates representing the Canadian private and public learning sectors will participate in a five-day business program in Johannesburg and Capetown. Kilgour and the delegates will have the opportunity to showcase Canadian capabilities, products and services through presentations, panel discussions and business meetings with their South African counterparts.

Canadian and South African participants will address the challenges of education and training development in a rapidly developing knowledge industry, as well as the challenges facing Canada and South Africa in the development of their respective workforces. They will also have the opportunity to use Canadian interactive technologies to address issues in education and workforce development and share best practices in the use of multimedia.

The partnership trade mission will precede two other important learning and training events taking place in Canada this year, which will include South African representatives: the World Education Market Conference in Vancouver, British



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Columbia, from May 24 to 27, and the 14th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers that will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, between November 27 and 30.

Kilgour will take advantage of his visit to the region to hold a number of political meetings. He will meet with Aziz Pahad, South African Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs; attend a roundtable on the Great Lakes organized by the Institute for Global Dialogue; and meet with some members of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

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A list of participants in the delegation and a backgrounder are attached.

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DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY OF STATE (LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA) DAVID KILGOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA

Robert Baser, DAI Inc., Ottawa, ON

Sandra Bassett, Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology, Ottawa, ON

Robert Davidson, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, Ottawa, ON

Dr. Gordon E. Dittberner, AgriVet International, Nepean, ON

Dr. Emery Dosdall, Edmonton Public Schools, Edmonton, AB

Pierre Pontbriand, Informatique D.B.D. Inc., Laval, QC

Erin M. Keough, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NF

Dr. John N. McDowell, Canadian University College, College Heights, AB

Rory McGreal, TeleEducation NB, Fredericton, NB

Dr. Claudia Mitchell, McGill University, Montreal, QC

Gregg Murtagh, Transport Canada International Co-operation, Ottawa, ON

Dr. Abba Sherif, Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology, Ottawa, ON

Dr. Malinda S. Smith, Athabasca University, Edmonton, AB

Dr. Rolf Stokhuyzen, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Calgary, AB

Grant Thomas, International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, ON

Ralph Weeks, Medicine Hat College, Medicine Hat, AB

Backgrounder

CANADA-SOUTH AFRICA TRADE RELATIONS

- Canada and South Africa have been progressing toward a strong bilateral trade relationship since the abolition of apartheid. South Africa is Canada's most important trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa and provides a gateway for Canadian companies to other countries in the region.
- South Africa is also the largest source of African direct investment in Canada.
- South Africa was chosen as the destination for the partnership trade mission because it is the most advanced and productive economy on the African continent. In addition, South Africa possesses a sophisticated free market economy with a modern and expanding infrastructure and communications system.
- Two-way trade rose almost 170 percent since 1993 and in 1998 was \$817 million. It decreased to \$734 million in 1999.
- In 1999, trade figures from Statistics Canada report exports totalled \$247 million and imports \$487 million. This represents a slight decline from 1998 figures, of \$317 million for exports and \$514 million for imports.
- Export Development Corporation has made financing available through general purpose lines of credit, and short-term financing is readily available from Canadian commercial banks. Two-way investment remains modest but newly released figures indicate that Canadian direct investment in South Africa increased from \$37 million in 1992 to more than \$520 million (Jan.-Sept. 1999).
- Investment in Canada by South Africa was negligible in 1998, but stood at \$240 million before the 1999 year's end (Jan.-Sept. 1999).
- Canadian companies are expanding joint-venture and investment activities and at present there are some 75 Canadian companies with local participation in South Africa.
- Canada's main exports to South Africa in 1998 were aircraft, cereals, sulphur and machinery. South Africa's main exports to Canada in 1998 were precious metals, iron and steel, chemicals, and fruits and nuts.
- Mining and related undertakings continue to be an area of considerable activity and promise with estimates that roughly half of all new mining ventures in all of Africa have Canadian participation. Other key sectors of interest include

transportation, telecommunications, information technology, the knowledge industry, agriculture and agri-food.

- Canada has a bilateral development assistance program of up to \$62 million over five years. Four priority areas have been identified for the CIDA bilateral program: 1) restructuring of South African government institutions; 2) human resource development; 3) support to civil society; and 4) economic development.

News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

March 6, 2000

(10:55 a.m. EST)

No. 36

APPOINTMENT TO IDRC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Dr. Leonard Good to the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

IDRC is a public corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing-country scientists and communities find solutions to social, economic and environmental problems through research. By bringing together people, institutions and ideas, IDRC seeks to ensure that the benefits of this research will be shared equitably among all its partners in both the northern and the southern hemispheres.

IDRC is directed by a 21-member Board of Governors comprising 11 Canadian members and 10 non-Canadian members.

- 30 -

A biographical note on Dr. Good is attached.

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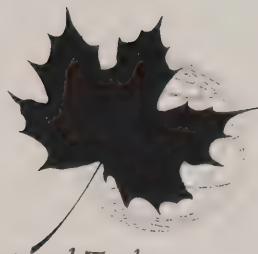


BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Dr. Leonard Good, a Ph.D graduate in Economics from the University of Western Ontario, studied the economic effects of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) on the Canadian cable television industry. He began his career in the Public Service as a project analyst with the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada. He subsequently worked at the Department of Finance as a group chief and at the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources where he was promoted from Director General to Assistant Deputy Minister to Associate Deputy Minister. From 1987 until 1989, Dr. Good worked in the Privy Council Office as Deputy Secretary (Planning).

Before being appointed President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the position he currently holds, Dr. Good served as Deputy Minister of Environment Canada and as Canada's Executive Director at the World Bank, where he represented Canada, Ireland and a number of Caribbean countries.

Prior to joining the Public Service, Dr. Good taught economics at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown before resuming his education at the University of Western Ontario.



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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

March 6, 2000

(11:10 a.m. EST)

No. 37

PETTIGREW TO PROMOTE CANADIAN EXPORTERS DURING VISIT TO URUGUAY, ARGENTINA AND CHILE

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew will travel to Uruguay, Argentina and Chile from March 8 to 13 to meet key political leaders and to promote the expertise and savvy of Canadian exporters.

In meetings with the region's newly elected leaders and ministers, Mr. Pettigrew will also urge progress on hemispheric free trade through continued work on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

"Canada's economic future is directly linked to that of our hemispheric neighbours," said the Minister. "The focus of my visit is to demonstrate Canadian know-how in key sectors such as mining, information technology and services."

In Uruguay on March 8, Minister Pettigrew will meet with newly elected President Jorge Batlle and Foreign Relations Minister Dr. Didier Opertti, and will review the progress of projects between Canadian businesses and the Uruguayan government.

While in Argentina on March 9 and 10, Mr. Pettigrew will meet with several ministers, including Rodriguez Giavarini, Minister for External Relations and International Trade. During their meeting they will discuss progress on the FTAA, whose negotiations Argentina now chairs.

"The FTAA will position Canada on the ground floor of one of the principal economic areas of the world," said Mr. Pettigrew. "When the FTAA negotiations are concluded in 2005, the FTAA will be the world's largest free trade region, with a population of 800 million people and a combined GDP of nearly \$11 trillion."

In addition to leading a business delegation in Chile from March 10 to 13, Minister Pettigrew will attend the inauguration of President-elect Ricardo Lagos and officially open the Canadian Maritime Group Office in Viña del Mar.



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In 1999, two-way merchandise trade between Canada and Uruguay, Argentina and Chile totalled over \$1.4 billion. Canadian investment in these countries is estimated at \$13 billion.

This mission continues Canada's long-term commitment to the Americas that began last year with the hosting of the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, the Conference of the First Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas in Ottawa, and the FTAA Ministerial Meeting in Toronto. This June, the city of Windsor, Ontario, will host the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), marking Canada's 10th anniversary as a member of the OAS. Then in Quebec City, in April 2001, Canada will host the third Summit of the Americas, which will bring together the region's 34 democratically elected leaders.

- 30 -

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March 6, 2000

(4:10 p.m. EST)

No. 38

APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minister for International Trade Pierre S. Pettigrew today announced the appointment of Dominique Vachon to the Board of Directors of Export Development Corporation (EDC) for a three-year term.

Ms. Vachon brings to EDC fifteen years of experience in economics in the field of research and development in the private sector. In 1991, Ms. Vachon joined the National Bank of Canada and is currently Vice-President and Chief Economist. Prior to 1991, she served as an economic advisor with the consulting firm Econobec Inc.

A member of the Standing Committee on Public Finance of the Association des économistes québécois, Ms. Vachon is also the author of various publications on finance and investment. She has been invited to share her expertise in economics at the Canadian embassies in Washington and Brussels. In 1997, the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal presented her with an award for women in business.

EDC is a Crown corporation that operates as a commercial financial institution and, since 1944, has helped Canadian businesses grow and prosper through exports and international investment. EDC's trade and finance solutions help Canadian firms compete in more than 200 countries, including emerging and higher-risk markets.

In 1998, EDC supported more than \$34.8 billion in sales and foreign investment by Canadian exporters, exceeding virtually all of its performance targets.

This appointment is effective immediately.

- 30 -

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News Release

March 7, 2000

(1:45 p.m. EST)

No. 39

AXWORTHY AND MINNA CONDEMN AERIAL BOMBINGS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN AND CALL FOR RETURN OF NGOs TO THE REGION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna today expressed outrage at the recent aerial bombings by the Government of Sudan of a hospital and grade school in the southern region of the country.

"The sustained and intentional bombing of civilian targets by the Government of Sudan is reprehensible and clearly demonstrates to the world that this administration is unconcerned with the human security of its population," said Minister Axworthy. "The bombing of school children and the infirm by the military is unacceptable and flies in the face of the Geneva Conventions and the protection of civilians in armed conflict."

In February, 14 children were killed when the Sudanese armed forces bombed a grade school in the Nuba mountains. On March 1, two civilians died and three were critically injured when the military attacked the Samaritan's Purse Hospital in Lui. Further bombings in southern Sudan are alleged to have taken place over the past weekend.

Noting the terrible toll the conflict in Sudan takes on innocent civilians, Ministers Axworthy and Minna also appealed to the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA), the relief arm of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), to negotiate the early return of 11 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that were recently compelled to leave the region.

"The departure of 11 of the major relief NGOs from southern Sudan greatly reduces the capacity of the international community to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance to innocent civilians," said Minister Minna.

The NGOs, including World Vision, OXFAM Canada and Oxfam Québec, were compelled to leave SPLA-controlled areas of southern Sudan because of their reluctance to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SRRA. The NGOs contended that by signing the framework, which the SRRA alleged would improve local capacity and self-sufficiency, they would have compromised the safety of their personnel, as well as their capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance in an impartial manner. The Canadian government shares these concerns.



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Canada is currently working on new initiatives to bring peace to Sudan. These include: support for Leonardo Franco, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Sudan; financial assistance to combat the abductions of women and children; an undertaking to use Canada's presidency of the UN Security Council in April to address the humanitarian impact of this conflict; further collaboration with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights; and the opening of a Canadian office in Khartoum.

Canada is also promoting the development of a mechanism that would ensure the effective monitoring of public expenditures, including military spending within the IMF, World Bank and African Development Bank.

Finally, Minister Axworthy has repeatedly urged Canadian multinational companies to act in a responsible and upstanding manner in their operations abroad, and to that end, has encouraged them to sign and adhere to the International Code of Ethics for Canadian Business.

- 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

March 9, 2000

(3:20 p.m. EST)

No. 40

CANADA WELCOMES BANGLADESH'S RATIFICATION OF THE CTBT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the ratification by Bangladesh of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which prohibits any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion anywhere in the world.

"Canada congratulates Bangladesh on its decision," said Minister Axworthy. "The CTBT is a key element in the global drive towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We hope that Bangladesh's good example will be followed by key states in the region, especially India and Pakistan, and by others among the group of 44.

"Additional ratifications of the CTBT will also send a positive signal to the upcoming Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in New York," the Minister continued. "The NPT has just celebrated the 30th anniversary of its own entry into force and forms the cornerstone of international efforts to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons."

To come into force, the CTBT must be ratified by 44 named states. Bangladesh's ratification is the 28th out of the 44. Canada signed the Treaty in September 1996 and ratified it in December 1998.

Other states among the group of 44 that have not yet ratified include Algeria, Chile, China, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, the U.S. and Vietnam. Three states in the group — India, Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — have yet to even sign the Treaty.

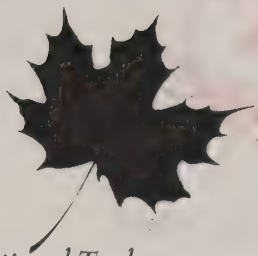
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March 9, 2000

(3:30 p.m. EST)

No. 41

PETTIGREW PROMOTES CANADIAN BUSINESS EXPERTISE DURING VISIT TO ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew met with key Argentinian and Uruguayan government officials to advance important Canadian business ventures and expertise in the telecommunications, infrastructure and environmental services sectors.

The Minister's meetings with the newly elected governments of both Uruguay and Argentina are important steps in supporting the growing Canadian economic presence in South America and in promoting Canada's trade liberalization agenda, which includes the negotiation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

In a meeting today, Minister Pettigrew, on behalf of Ottawa-based Telesat, and Dr. Hennoch Domingo Aguiar, Argentinian Secretary of Communication, began discussions that could lead to a bilateral agreement between Canada and Argentina on fixed telecommunications satellite services.

"The communications infrastructure in Canada has overcome great geographical distances and challenges," said Mr. Pettigrew. "Canada is uniquely able to help Argentina address similar challenges through the impressive expertise of our telecommunications sector."

Mr. Pettigrew also met with officials of the Port of Buenos Aires Authority to support a presentation and bid by Socomar International of Boucherville, Quebec, to install a \$13 million navigation system in the Port. Socomar uses state-of-the-art technologies and software to provide systems for environmental monitoring, resource management and navigation.

In Uruguay yesterday, Minister Pettigrew and newly elected Uruguayan President Jorge Batlle discussed a \$30 million project to be concluded between SNC-Lavalin of Montreal and OSE, an arm of the Uruguayan Ministry of Housing and Environment, to overcome the serious problem of poor water quality in areas outside main Uruguayan cities.

"SNC-Lavalin has considerable international experience in the environmental services sector, and I am confident their involvement will lead to significant improvements in



water quality, an area so important to the quality of life of Uruguayans," said Mr. Pettigrew.

Minister Pettigrew and President Batlle also discussed negotiations currently being held between CGI of Montreal and Uruguayan telecommunications utility ANTEL to extend existing projects in the field of information technology call centres and tele-education. The deal would be worth \$30 million to CGI, North America's fifth largest independent information technology services company. CGI is currently concluding the final \$15 million phase of the \$58 million contract signed in 1995 to assist ANTEL in modernizing its operations.

The Minister also discussed with President Batlle and Foreign Relations Minister Dr. Didier Opertti Canada's hemispheric agenda and two important events Canada will host over the next 14 months: the OAS General Assembly next June in Windsor, Ontario, and the Summit of the Americas in April 2001 in Quebec City.

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News Release

March 12, 2000

(11:55 a.m. EST)

No. 42

KILGOUR TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour today announced that on Monday, March 13 in Johannesburg, South Africa he will be joining the Canadian mission bringing humanitarian aid to Mozambique. Mr. Kilgour will be accompanied by the Canadian High Commissioner to Mozambique, Mr. James Wall.

"I hope that my brief visit to Mozambique will reflect the commitment and compassion felt by Canadians toward the suffering of the people of Mozambique and the bordering countries during this crisis period," said Mr. Kilgour.

Mr. Kilgour had been in South Africa leading a learning and technology partnership trade mission where he was monitoring the tragic situation in Mozambique and the bordering countries. When in Maputo, Mr. Kilgour will observe the situation first-hand and, on behalf of the government and people of Canada, will transmit Canada's support for the people of Mozambique. He hopes to meet with representatives of Mozambique as well as UN and humanitarian agencies in Maputo to get a current assessment of the situation.

To date, the Canadian government has contributed \$11.6 million in aid to Mozambique and the bordering countries.

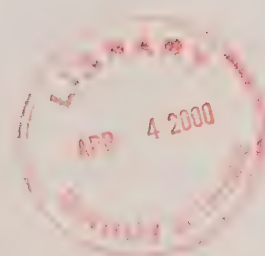
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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>



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News Release

www.dfa.it-ma.eci.gc.ca

March 13, 2000

(3:00 p.m. EST)

No. 43

PETTIGREW OPENS CANADIAN MARITIME GROUP OFFICE IN CHILE

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew has officially inaugurated the Canadian Maritime Group Office in Viña del Mar, Chile. The opening was attended by senior Chilean military officials and Canadian and Chilean business representatives and entrepreneurs.

The office's main objective is to serve Chilean needs regarding its "Proyecto Tridente," which envisions the building and replacing of its frigate fleet over the next several years. The presence of the Canadian office in Viña del Mar will facilitate future contracts and information exchanges between Canadian industry representatives and the Chilean military.

"We believe Canada can offer valuable assistance to Chile as the leading edge technology used in the construction of our frigate fleet is recognized throughout the world," said Minister Pettigrew.

"Proyecto Tridente" offers interesting opportunities to a large spectrum of Canadian businesses. These businesses have demonstrated their expertise with the construction of the new Canadian Navy frigate fleet, most notably by outfitting ships with computer-controlled communications and control systems.

The industry is actively promoting its expertise in Chile with the help of various Canadian federal departments and agencies. The Canadian Maritime Group is managed by the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) and receives financial support from Export Development Corporation (EDC). The Department of National Defence will offer technical assistance to the Chilean military and Canadian industry.

"This initiative once again demonstrates the strength of Canada-Chile commercial and economic relations since the signing of Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement in 1997," said Mr. Pettigrew.



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Canadian businesses present at the inauguration ceremony included Computing Devices Canada, Lockheed Martin Canada, CAE Electronics and DRS Technology.

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News Release

March 13, 2000

(3:30 p.m. EST)

No. 44

CANADA INVOLVED IN EMERGENCY DEMINING IN MOZAMBIQUE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, National Defence Minister Art Eggleton and International Co-operation Minister Maria Minna today announced that Canada would be contributing \$500 000 to enable the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to assess the situation and create public awareness of the dangers arising from the displacement of landmines in Mozambique as a result of flooding.

"We are pleased to be the first country to respond to the United Nations' appeal to the donor community for a Mine Action Response to the floods in Mozambique," said Mr. Axworthy. "Although the extent of the damage is still unknown, our efforts to alleviate human suffering caused by a terrible legacy of anti-personnel mines have become even more urgent given that the flooding affected the most heavily mined and densely populated regions."

Mozambique is one of the world's most heavily mined countries, with between one and two million land mines on its territory. Flooding may have displaced large numbers of land mines, which means that the agencies involved in demining will have to focus their efforts on the areas affected by the flooding.

"We will use the funds to introduce awareness-raising projects in this country that has been heavily affected by the use of land mines," said Minister Minna. "We must see that the flood victims are able to return to their villages without having to fear for their lives."

Three Canadian Forces officers who have been providing technical mine action assistance and training to Mozambique under the umbrella of the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Accelerated Demining Program are currently assisting Mozambique in the analysis and production of maps that will accelerate humanitarian aid efforts and evacuation of flood victims.

"I'm proud of the humanitarian work our Canadians Forces members have done, and continue to do, on behalf of the people of Mozambique," said Mr. Eggleton. "For the past year, they've helped save lives by mapping the mine fields of Mozambique. Now they're contributing to the vital work of mapping the flood plain. Their dedication and professionalism are a credit to the Canadian Forces and to Canada."



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UNMAS is responsible for co-ordinating all the activities related to landmines of the various NGOs in the country, the donor countries and the Government of Mozambique.

In addition to the amount announced today, \$12 million on mine action initiatives has been invested in Mozambique since 1997.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 2000 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>.

News Release

March 15, 2000

(10:10 a.m. EST)

No. 45

CANADA WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION REPORT ON PROTECTION OF WATERS OF THE GREAT LAKES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Environment Minister David Anderson today were pleased to receive the final report from the International Joint Commission (IJC), *Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes*. The report's conclusions support the Government of Canada's environmental approach, announced in February 1999, which will prohibit bulk water removal from Canada's major drainage basins.

"This is a comprehensive and strengthened report. Its conclusions and recommendations are clear: the waters of the Great Lakes need protection," said Minister Axworthy. "Canada is already taking action. Under Bill C-15, which is now before Parliament, the Great Lakes and other boundary waters will be protected from bulk removals under federal law."

In February 1999, Canada and the United States asked the IJC to investigate and make recommendations on the implications of water consumption, diversion and removals in the Great Lakes. The IJC reference was one component of Canada's three-pronged strategy to prohibit bulk water removal out of Canadian watersheds. The other two components of the strategy are the amendments to the *International Boundary Waters Treaty Act* (Bill C-15), and the development of a Canada-wide accord with provincial and territorial governments to prohibit water removals out of Canadian watersheds.

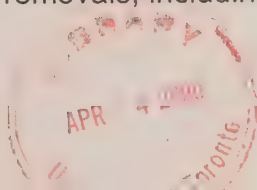
"We have said all along that Canada's approach of protecting water in its natural state in water basins is the most effective means of preserving the integrity of ecosystems and is consistent with international trade obligations," Minister Axworthy added. "The IJC report confirms this. Canadian governments have full sovereignty over the management of water in its natural state, and in exercising this sovereignty they are not constrained by trade agreements."

"The protection of our water resources for present and future generations of Canadians is of critical importance," said Minister Anderson. "The IJC report is consistent with and reinforces our strategy to prohibit bulk water removals, including recognition of the



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environmental basis for action, and the need for co-operation between governments in protecting this precious resource."

"I will be discussing the findings and recommendations of the International Joint Commission with my provincial and territorial colleagues," Minister Anderson added. "I am encouraged that other governments have either endorsed the Canada wide accord prohibiting bulk water removal or passed legislation or regulations that achieve the same result of protecting Canada's water."

The federal government will review the report recommendations in detail, and respond formally to the IJC after consulting with provincial governments, the U.S. and other stakeholders.

The IJC is an independent, bi-national Canada-U.S. organization established under the 1909 *Boundary Waters Treaty*. It assists Canada and the U.S. in managing waters along the border for the benefit of both countries.

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March 15, 2000

(11:35 a.m. EST)

No. 46

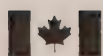
AXWORTHY WELCOMES REPORT OF ANGOLA SANCTIONS EXPERT PANEL

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed a report prepared by an Expert Panel concerning alleged violations of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) measures imposed against the Angolan rebel group, UNITA. The report makes 39 recommendations designed to strengthen the sanctions against UNITA and improve their implementation. Canadian Permanent Representative to the UN, Robert Fowler, as Chair of the Angola Sanctions Committee, presented the report to the Security Council in an open briefing this morning.

"Conditions for the implementation of peace must be established in order to achieve a lasting settlement to a conflict that has gone on for over two decades and has so seriously undermined the human security of Angolans," said Mr. Axworthy. "The work of the Expert Panel will assist the international community in ensuring that sanctions become an effective tool for reducing UNITA's capacity to wage war."

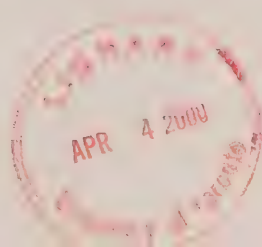
Council-imposed sanctions against UNITA have been introduced incrementally, beginning in 1993. The sanctions regime now encompasses prohibitions on UNITA's representation abroad and travel by its senior representatives; the provision or movement of funds and financial resources to UNITA; the sale or supply to UNITA of arms and related material and military assistance, the sale or supply of petroleum products to UNITA; and the direct or indirect export of diamonds by UNITA.

Security Council resolution 1237 of May 1999, established two independent expert panels, which were later merged, to collect information on the sources and methods of violations of the relevant Security Council sanctions against UNITA and to recommend measures both to end those violations, name perpetrators and to improve implementation of the sanctions. Chaired by Swedish diplomat Anders Mollander, and vice-chaired by Botswana Colonel Otisitswe B. Tiroyamodimo, members of the panel visited 30 countries and met with a wide variety of parties, including governments, commercial companies, non-governmental organisations, and others, in order to fulfil their mandate. The Government of Canada has fully respected the independent nature of the Expert Panel initiative and has neither sought, nor was offered, an opportunity to influence its content.



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During Canada's April presidency, Mr. Axworthy plans to chair an open meeting of the Security Council to formally consider the report's recommendations and develop an appropriate response. Canada is studying the report and will announce initiatives in April in areas which will assist in curbing the illegal trafficking of small arms, as identified in the Panel's report. Work with partners on measures to help cease the illicit trade of diamonds and to strengthen corporate responsibility in this regard will also be a priority. Canada welcomes the statements made by the Governments of Belgium and South Africa outlining the measures they are taking to ensure their full compliance with the UNSC-mandated sanctions, and will contact other countries mentioned about how they intend to respond.

"As was demonstrated in the Expert Panel report, even where sanctions regimes are imposed, the continued availability of small arms and light weapons seriously undermines the peacebuilding process and frequently leads to a renewal of fighting," said the Minister. "To tackle this problem effectively requires a comprehensive approach, including strict adherence to internationally imposed sanctions regimes."

Canada's work on the Angola Sanctions Committee is part of its wider efforts on sanctions, which have focussed on the issues of effectiveness and humanitarian impact. To address these broader questions, Canada has sponsored a comprehensive report on sanctions by the International Peace Academy, an international organization dedicated to promoting the peaceful settlement of armed conflicts between and within states. That report will be launched during Canada's April presidency of the Security Council.

The Expert Panel report is available at: <http://www.un.int/canada>

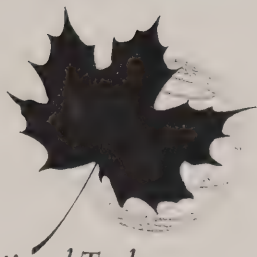
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March 15, 2000

(3:05 p.m. EST)

No. 47

PETTIGREW ANNOUNCES CANADA'S POSITION ON FTAA NEGOTIATIONS

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew today presented to Parliament Canada's priorities and objectives for negotiating a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

The Government's position directly responds to 29 recommendations made by an all-party parliamentary committee, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (SCFAIT). The SCFAIT report recommends the course Canada should take during ongoing FTAA negotiations among the 34 democratic nations of the Americas, slated to conclude by 2005.

"Canada's economic future is directly linked to that of our hemispheric neighbours," said Minister Pettigrew. "When negotiations are concluded, the FTAA will be the world's largest free trade region, with a current population of 800 million people and a combined GDP of nearly \$11 trillion."

"Canada is dependent on an open rules-based trading system to continue our impressive economic growth and job creation," said the Minister. "We are also committed to preserving our right to regulate in pursuit of national objectives, including those in the health and education sectors."

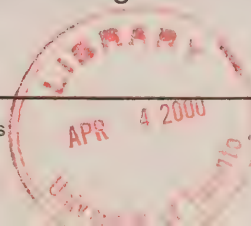
Last year, the Standing Committee held cross-country hearings on the FTAA and listened to hundreds of Canadians from a variety of business, labour, environmental, academic and human rights groups. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has also directly consulted industry sector representatives and citizen groups since 1998 and will continue to do so as negotiations progress.

Minister Pettigrew recently concluded a trade development mission to Uruguay, Argentina and Chile, where he urged progress on FTAA negotiations in meetings with the three nations' newly elected leaders and ministers. Argentina currently chairs the FTAA negotiations.



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The FTAA is an integral part of the Summit of the Americas process, which reinforces Canada's long-term commitment to the hemisphere. In April 2001 in Quebec City, Canada will host the third Summit of the Americas, which will bring together the region's 34 democratically elected leaders. This June, the city of Windsor, Ontario, will host the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), marking Canada's 10th anniversary as a member of the OAS.

- 30 -

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News Release

March 17, 2000

(2:00 p.m. EST)

No. 48

CANADA WELCOMES WTO RULING ON EU CHALLENGE OF CANADA'S PHARMACEUTICAL PATENT REGIME

The Government of Canada is pleased that a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement panel has validated Canada's early working exception, a significant element of Canada's patent regime.

The European Union (EU), in its challenge of Canada's patent regime, alleged that the exception was contrary to our obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and requested that the issue be examined by a WTO dispute settlement panel. The panel, in a report issued today, clearly decided in favour of Canada's early working exception.

"The decision is an important win for Canada. I am pleased to see that the WTO panel agreed that this exception is consistent with Canada's trade obligations," said Minister for International Trade Pierre S. Pettigrew. "This will help clarify international trade rules."

In Canada, the early working exception allows manufacturers to begin the process of seeking regulatory approval for competing versions of patented products prior to the expiration of the patent term. This exception is particularly important for the pharmaceutical sector. It allows entry into the market of generic drugs as soon as possible after patent expiry.

"Canada's success proves that it is possible to have effective patent protection and effective competition that benefits consumers," said Minister of Industry, John Manley.

"This is good news for Canadians," said Minister of Health, Allan Rock. "It helps provide Canadians with access to drugs at reasonable prices."

As part of the ruling, the panel decided that Canada's stockpiling practices were not consistent with our international obligations. Pharmaceutical manufacturers are able to stockpile quantities of product during the six months prior to the expiration of the patent. The benefits of this exception are minimal in regard to the advantage of the early working exception.



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The Government of Canada is considering its options regarding this aspect of the decision. All WTO members must be given at least 20 days before the report can be considered for adoption by the WTO dispute settlement body. WTO rules also provide that the panel report must be adopted or appealed within 60 days from the date it was circulated to WTO members.

- 30 -

Background information is attached.

A copy of the report is available at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/dispute-e.asp

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

PROFILE OF CANADA'S PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Overview

The Canadian pharmaceutical industry is a leading-edge, technology-intensive industry that covers a range of activities — from research, to the production of innovative drugs, to the manufacturing of generic versions of these drugs — based on both chemical and biological processes and materials.

The world pharmaceutical sector was valued at \$400 billion in 1998, with a growth rate of about 7% per year. Growth rates of around 9% are forecasted for Canada between 1998 and 2003. The largest market in the world is North America, which has 39% of the total, followed by the European Union with 32%, and Japan with 16%.

The Canadian market, worth \$7.8 billion in 1998, is about 2% of the global market, and ranks ninth in market size. In 1998, the Canadian pharmaceutical industry employed over 24 000 persons, according to Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) and the Canadian Drug Manufacturers Association (CDMA). Manufacturing employment has remained stable over the past 10 years, but there has been a significant increase in employment outside of manufacturing, driven by growth in R&D. Between 1990 and 1998, total manufacturing sales of the industry increased at an average rate of 10% per year, to reach \$7.8 billion in 1998.

Drug prices in Canada have declined since 1993 and have also declined compared to prices in other countries. In 1998, prices of patented drugs were 12% below the median price of a basket in similar countries used by the Patented Medicines Prices Review Board (PMPRB) for comparison, and close to 40% lower than prices in the United States.

Performance by Sector

Brand-name companies specialize in the development and marketing of innovative drugs. The brand-name sector is the largest component of the pharmaceutical industry in Canada, with about 85% of pharmaceutical sales. It employed approximately 19 600 people in 1998.

Generic firms specialize in the manufacture of off-patent drugs and drugs licensed under the previous compulsory licensing regime. The generic sector employed approximately 4 800 people in 1998. Forty percent of prescriptions are filled by a generic drug, representing 14.5% of the dollar value of the prescription market.

Background

EUROPEAN UNION CHALLENGE TO CANADA'S DRUG PATENT POLICY

Canada's patent policy, as it applies to the pharmaceutical sector, pursues a balance between providing effective patent protection to reward innovation in new drugs, and providing early and effective competition for drugs to ensure access to health care products at reasonable prices.

The European Union has challenged Canada's Patent Act under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement in respect of two exceptions:

- the early working exception, set out in Section 55.2(1) of the Patent Act; and
- the stockpiling exception, set out in Section 55.2(2) of the Patent Act.

The "regulatory review" or "early working" exception allows third parties to use a patented invention during its term of protection, provided such use is directed at obtaining regulatory approval for the marketing of an equivalent product upon expiry of the patent. This is an exception to normal patent protection, which in most circumstances prohibits the use of a patented invention by another, and would expose an unauthorized user to patent infringement liability.

In the context of the pharmaceutical industry the early working exception is a particularly valuable component of the Canadian government's balanced policy, given that the regulatory review for drug approvals can be very time-consuming. It is estimated that it may take a generic manufacturer from 2 to 4 years to develop a regulatory submission and another 1 to 2.5 years for Health Canada to complete its approval. The exception is important in that it allows competitors to do this work prior to patent expiry and supply consumers with an approved generic drug soon after patent expiry.

The WTO panel found that Canada's early working exception is consistent with Canada's trade obligations under the TRIPS Agreement.

The second of the two exceptions is termed the "stockpiling" exception. In the case of second-entry drug manufacturers who have taken advantage of the early working exception and are entitled to regulatory approval upon expiry of the patent, the stockpiling exception authorizes the manufacture and accumulation of the generic product during the last six months of the patent term.

The WTO panel found that Canada's stockpiling exception is not consistent with international obligations.

The Government of Canada is considering next steps in this process. WTO members must be given at least 20 days before the report can be considered for adoption at a meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body. WTO rules also provide that the panel report must be adopted or appealed within 60 days from the date it was circulated to the WTO members.

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News Release

March 20, 2000

(9:00 a.m. EST)

No. 49

SPIN-OFFS FROM THE 8TH SUMMIT OF LA FRANCOPHONIE

The economic spin-offs of the 8th Summit of La Francophonie have been estimated at \$78 million, according to a report released today by Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Francophonie) Ron J. Duhamel, on behalf of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and by Paul Robichaud, New Brunswick Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, on behalf of the New Brunswick Department of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs (DIAA).

The report, entitled VIII^e Sommet de la Francophonie — The Legacy, was presented within the context of the Journée internationale de la Francophonie and the 30th anniversary of the Francophonie. The document provides a rundown of the activities connected with the Moncton Summit and its spin-offs.

"I am very pleased and proud to join with the people of the Atlantic provinces in sharing the legacy left by the holding of the Summit of La Francophonie in Moncton," said Mr. Duhamel. "The report presented today proves that the Summit was a valuable event, and that the spin-offs have significantly benefited the population of the Atlantic region — including youth, workers, artists, entrepreneurs, and the Francophonie as a whole."

Minister Robichaud said that he was pleased that the Summit had generated such significant spin-offs, pointing out that the repercussions of such an event go far beyond the figures released.

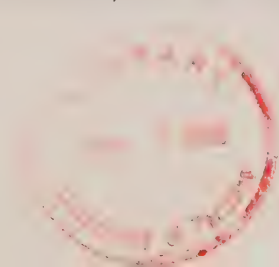
"The Summit of La Francophonie enabled our province to position itself internationally as it never had before," said Mr. Robichaud. "It gave us exposure and showed the world our talents and assets. Now we must continue to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity to extend our influence to areas that will be of benefit to all New Brunswickers."

Studies undertaken during the Summit identified five priority sectors for involvement: youth; culture; the economy; community activities; and information/communications.



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The report outlines the various activities organized within each of these sectors. Mr. Robichaud also presented the follow-up on the various activities, especially in the youth sector, with the implementation of the Youth Mobility Program within La Francophonie.

ACOA was the co-ordinating partner for economic activities organized in conjunction with the Summit. The agency worked to raise the profile of Atlantic Canada's business community, and to maximize the economic advantages resulting from the Summit.

- 30 -

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A backgrounder containing highlights of the Summit is attached.

Backgrounder

VIII^E SOMMET DE LA FRANCOPHONIE — THE LEGACY Highlights

- The 8th Summit of La Francophonie, held from September 3 to 5, 1999, brought together 52 heads of state and government that have French as a common language.
- Organization of the Summit began in the spring of 1998.
- The governments of Canada, New Brunswick and Quebec hosted the Summit.
- The Summit provided a unique opportunity for the whole of Atlantic Canada to promote its expertise and know-how in every sector of the economy.
- Given its mandate to promote economic development in the Atlantic region, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) was the natural choice to play the lead role on behalf of the federal government, acting as official co-ordinator of Summit-related economic activities.
- ACOA worked with the New Brunswick Department of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs (DIAA) to maximize the potential economic spin-offs of the Summit.
- Five sectors were identified for intervention: youth; culture; the economy; the community; and information/communications.
- ACOA took advantage of the opportunity provided by the Summit to promote the advantages of the Atlantic Canada business community to an international audience. The Agency's efforts to co-ordinate Summit economic activities was in keeping with its mission, as the Summit helped to strengthen ties and partnerships among firms, associations, academics, and the governments of Atlantic Canada and the countries of La Francophonie.
- By its involvement in the economic sector, ACOA wanted to promote higher revenues and job creation in the region. The Agency also wanted to increase the direct and indirect economic development opportunities arising out of La Francophonie Summit for the four Atlantic provinces.
- Overall organization costs came to \$11.2 million. The Government of Canada contributed \$9.2 million, the Government of New Brunswick \$1.5 million and the Government of Quebec \$500,000.

- ACOA invested almost \$1.7 million (25 percent of the total cost of about \$6.6 million) for some 20 peripheral economic activities.
- Several activities were aimed at encouraging the participation of young people in the Summit. For example, six round tables on youth were held in different New Brunswick communities; some 70 young people from every corner of the world contributed to the Radio-Jeunesse '99 project; and the Canadian Francophonie Games brought together almost 1100 young Canadians. In all, youth activities involved more than 5380 participants.
- The Province of New Brunswick developed a cultural strategy to maximize the promotion of Acadian and Francophone culture. A number of artists took part in a variety of artistic and cultural events, including summer festivals, book fairs, art exhibitions and shows. For example, the symposium on contemporary art "*Attention, le Mascaret ne siffle pas*" and Dieppe's *Village de la Francophonie* were two events that allowed Francophone artists from around the world to showcase their talents.
- The Village de la Francophonie, a collection of over 60 booths, offered song, music, dance, theatre and story-telling. More than 250 artists, actors, craftspeople and musicians from 30 countries and provinces were present. Some 110 000 people visited the Village de la Francophonie, which also housed the Canada Pavilion, an initiative of the New Brunswick Federal Council. A total of 26 federal departments and agencies shared space in the Pavilion, and welcomed 75 000 people over five days. The Village was so successful that there are plans to organize similar villages at future summits.
- The 31st annual meeting of the Francophone press, a community-sector activity, brought some 120 journalists from countries of La Francophonie together with 30 Acadian colleagues, for workshops and talks on media training and journalism schools. This event also introduced foreign journalists to the Canadian Francophonie.
- The visit of French President Jacques Chirac attracted more than 2000 Acadians.
- The Agence universitaire de la Francophonie organized three events:
 - the *Assises sur l'enseignement supérieur technologique et professionnel* was attended by some 130 people from 25 Francophone countries;
 - the first Francophone University Olympics brought together 48 young university students from every major Francophone region of the world for two weeks; and

- the Université de Moncton, in collaboration with the *Centre international pour le développement de l'inforoute en français*, hosted Initi@tives '99, welcoming 250 people from 15 countries. Internet users around the world were able to follow the event live on the Initi@tives '99 Web site.
- The varied activities in the economic sector underscored the Atlantic region's know-how in information technologies; biotechnology; agriculture; forestry; fishing and aquaculture; health sciences; the environment; and continuing and distance education.

Examples of Economic Sector Activities:

- **The Conférence Acadie-Sherbrooke 1999:** Co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), the event drew more than 530 participants from 23 countries, who attended over 230 scientific presentations. The conference had two immediate results: the creation of an Acadie-Sherbrooke Secretariat and the implementation of a project called Santé ADO.
- **The Franco Com 99 International Trade Fair** was held in Dieppe, New Brunswick, allowing the Atlantic provinces to showcase their products and services and promote partnerships and trade with the rest of La Francophonie. Over 225 Atlantic region and foreign delegates had booths presenting their products and services, representing 68 Francophone businesses from 13 overseas countries. A total of 17 partnership agreements were signed between Atlantic Canada companies and organizations and those from various Francophone countries.
- In all, more than 1100 journalists and technicians from around the world came to Moncton to cover La Francophonie Summit. Major media outlets like *Le Point* and *Express* were present, and the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* also sent reporters. Since November 1997, more than 2000 articles and news reports have appeared about the Summit. Over 129 000 participants attended the Summit and its activities. Of these, 38 000 visitors came from outside the region.
- The economic impact of the Summit on the Atlantic region is estimated at more than \$78 million. This impact was mainly felt in services; construction; retail and wholesale sales; communications; and transportation.
- The economic impact of the Summit was evaluated with the help of the Conference Board of Canada's econometric model.

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News Release

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J'adonne

March 20, 2000

(4:00 p.m. EST)

No. 50

CANADA CELEBRATES THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA FRANCOPHONIE

Ronald J. Duhamel, Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Francophonie), today paid tribute to the founders of La Francophonie in a ceremony commemorating both the 30th anniversary of the founding of the organization and La Journée internationale de la francophonie, in the presence of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps.

Several hundred guests attended this afternoon's ceremony at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec. Highlights included the presentation of the Médaille du Richelieu international by Prime Minister Chrétien, the awarding of the Ordre de la Pléiade de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, and the presentation of the Prix de la Francophonie, under the auspices of the Association canadienne d'Éducation de langue française, in the presence of the ambassadors of Senegal, Tunisia and Niger.

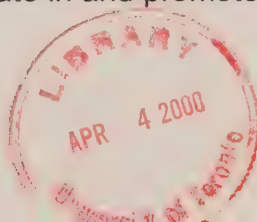
"With 55 participating states and governments, La Francophonie is now a dynamic and vital presence on the international scene. Its evolution is due to the unflagging commitment of all its members," Mr. Duhamel stated. "I would also like to take this opportunity to tell all Canadian Francophones that in this era of globalization, the vitality of our community gives each of us the chance to reinforce the presence of the French language in Canada and throughout the world."

"For Canada, membership in La Francophonie gives us the opportunity to showcase to the rest of the world the energy and vitality of the millions of Canadian men and women who make French a living, working language in every corner of the globe," said Minister Copps. "Francophones and Francophiles alike are now celebrating the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, two weeks of events in conjunction with the Journée internationale de la Francophonie that celebrate our deep-rooted attachment to the French language and culture. The theme of this year's Rendez-vous, *Notre francophonie en personne*, focusses on the individual face of Canada's Francophone community, through the thousands of Canadians who communicate in and promote the French language every day."



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On March 20, 1970, on the initiative of three great statesmen — Léopold Sédar Senghor of Senegal, Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia and Hamani Diori of Niger — the representatives of 21 states and governments sharing French as a common language, including Canada, met in Niamey, Niger, to sign the agreement creating the Agence de coopération culturelle et technique (ACCT), which later became the Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie. Ceremonies were also held today in Niamey and in several other countries in honour of the anniversary.

With members on all continents — and including more than one quarter of the member countries of the United Nations — La Francophonie has become a full-fledged international organization, with a Secretariat headed by Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Since 1970, the Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie has expanded its multilateral co-operation activities in all fields.

- 30 -

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<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

March 20, 2000

No. 51

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT OTTAWA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that his Italian counterpart, Lamberto Dini, will visit Ottawa on March 21.

"Canada is building on its strong ties with Italy through the Canada-Italy Declaration on a Strengthened Partnership," said Minister Axworthy. "This meeting gives us the opportunity to further that partnership by identifying areas for enhanced bilateral and multilateral co-operation."

Ministers Axworthy and Dini will meet to discuss the upcoming G-8 summit in Okinawa, and Italy's and Canada's chairing of the G-8 in 2001 and 2002 respectively. They will also exchange views on Euro-Atlantic relations and stability in the Balkans. The ministers will meet again in May at the meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Florence.

As Canada will shortly assume the presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of April, Minister Axworthy will take the opportunity to highlight Canada's agenda for the protection of civilians in armed conflict. In addition, he will outline Canadian initiatives on war-affected children, including an international conference in Canada this fall to formulate a plan of action for addressing the issue.

On bilateral issues, the ministers will discuss Canadian-Italian co-operation in the fields of telecommunications and aeronautical training.

While in Ottawa, Mr. Dini will meet as well with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to discuss a range of bilateral issues.

This is Mr. Dini's second visit to Canada as Foreign Minister. He was in Canada in December 1997 to sign the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines. Italy is a staunch supporter of a landmines ban. It has ratified the Ottawa Convention and is active in mine clearance and mine awareness in the Balkans.



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Mr. Dini has served on some of the world's most influential economic bodies, including the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank. He has also served as Director General of the Bank of Italy, Treasury Minister and Prime Minister of Italy. Mr. Dini has been Minister of Foreign Affairs since May 1996.

- 30 -

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News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

March 22, 2000

(3:35 p.m. EST)

No. 52

CANADA COMMENDS THE SENEGALESE PEOPLE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Francophonie) Ron J. Duhamel extend their most sincere congratulations to the Senegalese people for the presidential elections held on February 27 and March 19, 2000.

"The recent elections in Senegal occurred in an atmosphere of transparency," said Mr. Axworthy. "The Senegalese people once again demonstrated their determination to see democracy take root. This process illustrates that the will of the people is a source of legitimacy and hope."

Canada salutes the Senegalese people for the strides they have made and hopes that these elections will serve as an example to others.

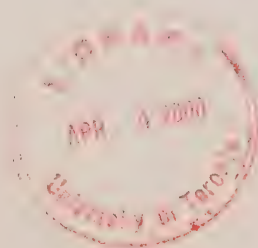
"We are delighted with the democratic maturity of the Senegalese people," said Mr. Duhamel. "These elections in Senegal can serve as a reference for the member countries of La Francophonie."

Canada and Senegal are long-standing partners. They share common values and have worked for peace and stability both regionally and internationally. They are active members of numerous international bodies, including the United Nations and La Francophonie, and have developed close, sustained ties over the years that have evolved into an economic partnership.

- 30 -

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

March 23, 2000

(4:15 p.m. EST)

No. 53

SENATOR WILSON TO VISIT WASHINGTON

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Senator Lois Wilson, Canada's Special Envoy to the Sudan Peace Process, will pay a two-day visit to Washington, March 23 to 24, to discuss recent developments in the peace process with U.S. governmental, international and civil society contacts.

Senator Wilson is expected to hold talks with Mr. Harry Johnstone, United States Special Envoy on Sudan; Mr. Francis Deng, United Nations Special Representative for Internally Displaced Persons; Mr. Thomas Vraalsen, United Nations Special Representative for Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan; Ms. Jemera Rone of Human Rights Watch; Ms. Marianne Leach of CARE; state department officials; and Mr. Raymond Chrétien, Canadian Ambassador to the United States.

"Senator Wilson's visit to Washington and the discussions that she will hold underline our continuing and deep commitment to the peace process in Sudan," said Mr. Axworthy. "This will give her an opportunity to engage with other key partners working toward a settlement of this tragic and long-standing conflict."

Senator Wilson is expected to raise the question of how to generate maximum support for the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) peace process for Sudan, including discussion of the Canadian proposal to seek a UN Security Council endorsement for IGAD's mediation efforts. IGAD is a regional organization, headed by Kenya, that has been mandated by the Organization for African Unity to lead efforts to bring about a comprehensive and just conclusion to the lengthy civil war in Sudan.

- 30 -

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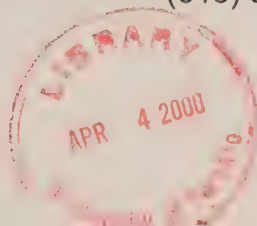
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March 23, 2000

(4:45 p.m. EST)

No. 54

AXWORTHY CONDEMNS MASSACRE IN KASHMIR REGION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today condemned the massacre of 35 men, members of the Sikh faith, by terrorists on March 21 at Chhattisinghpura, in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Canada is deeply concerned with the increasing level of violence in the Kashmir region and calls on all parties in the dispute to end the violence," said Mr. Axworthy. "This terrible conflict, which has visited great misery on civilians of all faiths in the Kashmir area, must be resolved."

India and Pakistan each have claimed the entire Kashmir region since partition in 1947. India controls the southeastern portion, Jammu and Kashmir, while Pakistan controls the northwestern portion, Azad Kashmir. China administers an adjoining area, Aksai Chin, which is disputed by India.

"Killings such as those perpetrated at Chhattisinghpura only serve to lessen the potential for a political resolution to the dispute over Kashmir," Mr. Axworthy said. "Canada believes that a lasting resolution can best be achieved through sustained bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan. We again urge both countries to resume their discussions of bilateral issues without delay, to negotiate in a spirit of compromise, and to respect the Line-of-Control," the Minister concluded.

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News Release

March 24, 2000

(3:00 p.m. EST)

No. 55

CANADA ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES TO ASSIST CROATIAN REFORM PROCESS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and the Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna, today announced a Government of Canada assessment mission to Croatia in early May, which will set a foundation for a strengthened co-operation program. The Ministers also unveiled \$2 million of initiatives to be implemented in the very near future in Croatia.

Since taking office early this year, the new Croatian authorities, under the leadership of President Stipe Mesic and Prime Minister Ivica Racan, have begun to implement reforms in the areas of human rights, democratization, and foreign policy. They have taken steps to implement the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement by encouraging the return of ethnic Serb refugees to Croatia, and by co-operating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. They have distanced themselves from extremist elements in the Bosnian-Croat community, and have acted to improve bilateral relations with the Bosnian authorities.

"We are very encouraged by the reform orientation of Croatia's new government, and its willingness to work with the international community to resolve long-standing issues related to recent conflicts in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina," said Minister Axworthy. "Canada will support Croatia's reforms, leading to its deeper integration into international organizations, which will become possible as economic and democratic reforms are implemented."

"Canada is playing an important role in helping Croatia develop a society based on continued peace and respect for human rights," said Minister Minna. "I am looking forward to a long-term relationship between Canada and Croatia."

Initiatives that Canada is planning to implement shortly are in the following areas, and will be funded by the Canadian International Development Agency:

- Mine Action — Canada is contributing approximately \$375 000 to provide support to the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) and the United Nations Mine



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Action Assistance Programme in Croatia (UNMAAP), including core support, training and the purchase of demining equipment;

- Judicial reform — approximately \$615 000 has been earmarked, through the Canadian Section of the International Commission of Jurists, to enable Croatian judges to work on measures to ensure their independence and impartiality in the Croatian justice system;
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees — \$500 000 has been committed to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of refugees to Croatia; and
- The Peacebuilding Response Program — \$600 000 will go to small-scale initiatives to strengthen civil society, promote democracy and good governance, and support human and minority rights, with an emphasis on refugee returns.

In addition, the Canadian Regional Training and Support Project (CRTSP) will provide training to military, police and civilian officials of the Croatian government. Croatia's participation in the military component of the CRTSP will concentrate on peacekeeping training, while the police component will focus on executive-level professional development training.

All CRTSP training will have a regional character, bringing together personnel from Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The CRTSP has a budget of \$12 million over five years, and is administered by the Department of National Defence and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in co-operation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 2000 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>.

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

March 28, 2000

(2:30 p.m. EST)

No. 56

HONG KONG CHIEF EXECUTIVE TUNG CHEE HWA TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today announced that Tung Chee Hwa, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, will visit Canada from April 1 to 5.

"While historic changes have taken place in Hong Kong over the last two and a half years, they have not changed the warm relations that we share with its people," said Mr. Axworthy. "Our ties — economic and social — remain strong, and we look forward to enhancing them during the course of Mr. Tung's visit."

"We welcome this official visit to Canada by Mr. Tung in his capacity as Chief Executive of Hong Kong," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Chan. "During Mr. Tung's visit, we intend to showcase the many Canadian goods and services, especially those related to the information technology sector, an area in which Canada and Hong Kong can co-operate in new developments."

Mr. Tung will arrive in Toronto on April 1 and will follow a private program for the first two days of his stay. On April 3, he will pay a one-day visit to Ottawa, where he will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister Axworthy, Finance Minister Paul Martin, and Secretary of State Chan. The Chief Executive will also meet with the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group at the House of Commons. He will tour Nortel Networks' facilities in Nepean before returning to Toronto on April 4.

Chief Executive Tung's schedule in Toronto includes a reception in his honour, hosted by Mr. Chan, and a meeting with Toronto Mayor, Mel Lastman. He will also attend an event jointly hosted by the Canadian Club of Toronto, the Canada-Hong Kong Business Association, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office. Mr. Tung will conclude his visit at an event hosted by the Business Council on National Issues.

A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

CANADA–HONG KONG, CHINA RELATIONS

- On July 1, 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty after 156 years of British rule and became the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. The framework for the transition is set out in the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 and the Basic Law.
- Under the Joint Declaration, China has undertaken to retain Hong Kong's free enterprise system and way of life for at least 50 years. The Joint Declaration provides Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy and assures the continuity of its institutions. It stipulates that Hong Kong will continue to administer itself and pass its own legislation. China will be responsible for Hong Kong's defence and foreign affairs.
- The Joint Declaration provides that Hong Kong will retain its existing freedoms, including freedom of the press, of speech, of religion, of travel and of movement, as well as freedom of association and assembly. The Basic Law, the constitution of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, adopted by the National People's Congress of China, enacts these provisions.
- Canada and Hong Kong both participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Canada has a direct interest in the continued well-being of Hong Kong and supports the future development of Hong Kong, based on a "one country, two systems" formula.
- Relations between Canada and Hong Kong are strong and multi-faceted. Canada has social, political and trade interests in Hong Kong and has supported and initiated efforts to sustain confidence in Hong Kong's future.
- More than 150 000 Canadians live in Hong Kong and about half a million people of Hong Kong origin live in Canada.
- Hong Kong is an important trading partner and commercial centre for Canadian business. Hong Kong is Canada's 13th-largest export market (fifth-largest in Asia) and 17th-largest source of imports worldwide. Canada, in turn, is Hong Kong's 11th-largest export market and 20th-largest source of imports.

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March 29, 2000

(11:00 a.m. EST)

No. 57

SOUTH ASIA GROUP TO MEET IN OTTAWA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today announced that the South Asia Task Force will meet in Ottawa on March 29 and 30.

"Nearly two years after the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan, the global implications of nuclear proliferation in South Asia are as stark as ever," said Mr. Axworthy. "Given the renewed tensions between India and Pakistan, the Ottawa meeting will provide a timely opportunity for exchanging views and information on efforts to achieve the objectives set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1172."

Adopted on June 6, 1998, UN Security Council Resolution 1172 called on India and Pakistan to refrain from further testing and to take a number of steps, including cessation of nuclear weapons and missile development programs, adherence to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and resumption of bilateral dialogue on all outstanding issues. The Task Force mandate also includes strengthening of the non-proliferation regime. The Ottawa meeting will discuss next month's NPT Review Conference and the role that South Asian developments will have in that context.

"The nuclear weapons capability in India and Pakistan adds a new and potentially disastrous dimension to the Indo-Pakistani conflict," said Mr. Chan. "Concerned countries must make every effort to halt and reverse the arms race in the subcontinent, and to reduce bilateral tension and encourage the resumption of the dialogue between the two states."

The South Asia Task Force was established in June 1998 to consider issues arising from Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests in May of that year. Mandated by ministers of participating countries, the Task Force includes senior officials and experts from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Portugal (as current holder of the European Union Presidency), Russia, Ukraine,



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the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Commission. Canada is the current Chair of the group.

Previous meetings of the Task Force were held in London, Tokyo, Kyiv and New York.

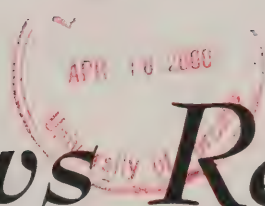
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News Release

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March 29, 2000

(2:20 p.m. EST)

No. 58

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT SHOWS POSITIVE RESULTS FOR 1999

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew today tabled Export Development Corporation's (EDC) 1999 Annual Report, which shows it helped thousands of Canadian companies pursue business opportunities abroad.

EDC served a record 5 182 customers in 1999, an increase of 16 percent over the previous year, states the Report, audited by the Auditor General of Canada. The Corporation supported more than \$40 billion in sales and foreign investments in 1999, an increase of 15 percent over 1998. EDC supported Canadian business in 171 countries and territories last year, including in Asia, Latin America and Russia..

"EDC made \$118 million last year. At the same time, this Corporation has helped thousands of Canadian companies do business abroad. That is good for our economy and it is good for Canadians," Mr. Pettigrew said.

The report shows small and medium-sized businesses account for 88 percent of EDC's customers, having received more than \$6.1 billion in financing and insurance in 1999, a 6.8 percent increase over 1998. The number of smaller exporters using EDC services in 1999 rose 15 percent from the previous year to a record 4 550.

"These results demonstrate the critical role that trade finance plays in helping Canadian companies realize their international business potential," Mr. Pettigrew said.

The Corporation provides value-added service to Canadian companies while encouraging careful financial management. EDC again received high marks for customer service in 1999, scoring 80.4 out of 100 in its annual customer satisfaction survey. That's up from a score of 79.8 in 1998.

"By helping to create trade finance capacity, EDC is increasingly a vital partner to Canadian business as it seeks to build its competitiveness globally," said EDC President and CEO, A. Ian Gillespie.

Founded in 1944, EDC is a Crown corporation that operates as a commercial financial institution devoted exclusively to providing trade finance services in support of



Canadian exporters and investors. The Corporation's core competence is enhanced through 14 sector teams, including agriculture, forestry, consumer goods, aerospace and telecommunications.

- 30 -

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

March 29, 2000

(3:00 p.m. EST)

No. 59

APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced the appointment of Michel Corbeil to the Board of Directors of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD).

Mr. Corbeil, a founding member of the non-profit organization *Salut, Le Monde!*, plays an active role in training young adults to promote community spirit and engender values of justice and respect in North America, Latin America and Africa. The goal of the organization is to train youth to better understand the political, economic and cultural ideologies of developing countries. During his mandate with *Salut, Le Monde!*, Mr. Corbeil was also co-founder of the parallel projects *Mer et Monde* and *Fondation Jeunes et Société*. He co-founded the *Centre Berthe-Rousseau* and was Director of the *Villa Saint-Martin* in Pierrefonds. Mr. Corbeil has a Bachelor of Theology from the University of Montreal.

The ICHRDD is an independent body established by an Act of Parliament in 1988. It provides individuals and organizations in other countries with training, consultation and research services to promote the observance of human rights and the full participation of all citizens in the democratic process. The Centre's Board of Directors is made up of 13 members, including three from countries other than Canada. The Centre's President is Warren Allmand.

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News Release

www.dfaic-maeci.gc.ca

April 4, 2000

(9:30 a.m. EDT)

No. 60

UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT TO VISIT CANADA

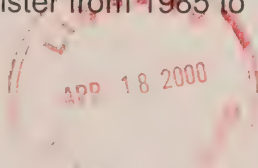
Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu, will be in Ottawa on April 4 and 5 to consult with the Government of Canada on the issue of war-affected children.

"The protection and plight of war-affected children is central to Canada's human security agenda. Later this month in Accra, we will co-host with Ghana the West African Conference on War-Affected Children, and in September we will host an international conference on this issue in Canada," said Mr. Axworthy. "We have also identified the tragic situation of children in conflict situations as a focus of our presidency of the UN Security Council this month. I welcome this visit by Mr. Otunnu as a timely opportunity to advise him of our activities and to benefit from his expertise as we prepare for these major events."

Mr. Otunnu will begin his visit with an appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He will be accompanied by Minister Axworthy, Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna, and a youth survivor of the conflict in Somalia, who now lives in Canada.

On April 5, the SRSG will address the media and diplomatic community at the National Press Club. Mr. Otunnu will then meet with representatives of the three key departments that deal with war-affected children: the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian International Development Agency. He will conclude his visit at a meeting of the Joint Government-NGO Committee on War-Affected Children, chaired by Senator Landon Pearson, the Prime Minister's personal representative to the 2001 UN General Assembly Special Session on Children.

Mr. Otunnu, who was born in Uganda, is a national of Côte d'Ivoire. He was appointed to his post by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in September 1997. A lawyer by training, he was educated at Makerere University, Oxford, and Harvard Law School. Mr. Otunnu served as Uganda's Foreign Minister from 1985 to 1986. His academic



work and professional experience have centred on international peace and security, prevention of conflict, reform of multilateral institutions, development, human rights, issues of values, and the future of Africa.

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News Release

April 4, 2000

(4:00 p.m. EDT)

No. 61

CANADA TO MOBILIZE INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO PROTECT WAR-AFFECTED CHILDREN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna today appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade to present Canada's agenda for the coming year to address the issue of war-affected children. The meeting took place on the occasion of the visit to Ottawa of Mr. Olara Otunnu, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict.

The ministers discussed the West African Conference on War-Affected Children, to be held in Accra, Ghana, on April 27 and 28. The Conference, to be co-hosted by Ghana and Canada, will mobilize specific action to protect children in the region, where they have been so severely affected by armed conflict and violence. The Conference will be attended by representatives of all West African governments, civil society organizations and donor governments, as well as young people affected by war, in order to define an action plan to help war-affected children in West Africa.

"We hope to add further impetus to the 2001 United Nations Special Session on Children by working this year within the Security Council and with governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed to preserving and promoting the human security of children affected by war," said Mr. Axworthy. "Actively engaging youth in political action will be a key ingredient to ensuring a positive outcome for this process."

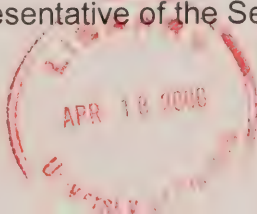
"Children have paid a heavy price for armed conflicts over the last decade and there is an evolving understanding in the international community that meaningful youth participation is essential to breaking cycles of violence, rebuilding communities and building future peace," said Minister Minna. "Canada fully supports this view."

Minister Axworthy will represent Canada at the West African Conference. He will then travel to Freetown, Sierra Leone, on April 29, where he will visit the Amputee Camp at Murray Town and meet with war-affected children, including former child soldiers, amputees, and abducted girls. The Minister will also meet with representatives of political parties, members of civil society and members of the UNAMSIL (United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone) including the Representative of the Secretary-General of the



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UN in Sierra Leone. Mr. Axworthy will then meet individually with President Kabbah, Vice President Foday Sankoh and the Chairman of the Committee for the Consolidation of Peace, Johnny Paul Koroma.

From September 9 to 17 in Winnipeg, Canada will host the International Conference on War-Affected Children. This event will be the first global ministerial-level gathering on the issues facing war-affected children, and will include the participation of UN agencies, youth, NGOs, the private sector and academics. The purpose of the Conference is to mobilize international attention and produce a declaration and joint action plan for protection of war-affected children.

These documents will then be submitted to the 2001 United Nations Special Session on Children, where the progress made since the 1990 World Summit for Children will be reviewed and agreement will be sought on a new global agenda for children.

In preparation for this year's International Conference, Canada will facilitate a series of meetings and workshops in which Canadian and international youth will discuss and propose steps to address the devastating effects of war on children and their communities.

The engagement of Canadian youth for the Winnipeg Conference will be undertaken through the National Forum process, which will host a series of youth meetings across Canada and which will culminate in a national youth gathering on the issue of war-affected children immediately prior to the Winnipeg Conference. Both concerned and war-affected youth will participate in these meetings. These Canadian youth will prepare a statement of their recommendations for action and will select a number of delegates to participate in the Winnipeg Conference.

International youth will be engaged through the Children as Peacebuilders project. War-affected youth from 6 regions (the Balkans, Southern Africa, East-Central Africa, South/South-East Asia, the Middle East and South/Central America) will identify and analyse, through creative methods, the issues most important to them. A small number of these youth will meet to consolidate their views in written and video format and will also participate as delegates to the Winnipeg Conference.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

April 5, 2000

(11:00 a.m. EDT)

No. 62

REPORT PROFILES SIGNIFICANT MARKET-OPENING RESULTS AND OUTLINES CANADA'S TRADE PRIORITIES

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew today released the government's annual report on Canada's priorities for 2000 to improve access to foreign markets. The report also highlights significant market-opening results achieved by the government in 1999 to benefit Canadian exporters.

"With exports of goods and services now accounting for 43 percent of gross domestic product, it is clear that trade is a vital tool for our prosperity," said Minister Pettigrew. "Trade is the engine of Canada's economy and has helped to create thousands of jobs. Canada will continue to build on our success in the international market place and ensure our economic prosperity."

The report, *Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities – 2000*, outlines the federal government's strategy for achieving improved access for goods, services and investments in key foreign markets. Canada will pursue this objective through multilateral and regional forums such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), bilateral trade agreements with Chile and Israel and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). In addition, Canada will seek to finalize a free trade agreement with the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

The report notes major trade policy agreements reached in 1999 that will provide new opportunities for Canadian companies in world markets. These include a major agreement with China related to China's accession to the WTO; an agreement with Chile to accelerate the elimination of tariffs on a selection of products; and the Canada-Korea Telecommunications Equipment Agreement that puts Canadian suppliers on an equal footing with global competitors.

"We have made good progress on a number of fronts, however there is still a lot of work to do," said Minister Pettigrew. "This report identifies Canada's priorities in 2000 for improving access to key markets. We will pursue these priorities in full consultation with Canadians."



This year's report also includes a new section entitled *Focus on Atlantic Canada*, the first in a series that will profile the regional economies of Canada.

The report is available on the following Web site:
www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/access2000

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A backgrounder is attached.

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Backgrounder

OPENING DOORS TO THE WORLD: CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL MARKET ACCESS PRIORITIES –2000

With exports of goods and services now accounting for 43 percent of gross domestic product and trade accounting for one in every three jobs, Canada is reaping the benefits of increased international competition and the removal of trade barriers.

To help ensure continued prosperity and secure predictable access to the world for Canadian traders and investors, the government continues its efforts to bring down barriers in key markets.

The report, *Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities — 2000*, describes significant market-opening results over the past year and outlines the government's priorities for 2000 to further improve access to foreign markets. It sets out the range of initiatives that the government will pursue this year at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels, as well as details on specific obstacles to be tackled in several markets. The report also includes a section entitled *Focus on Atlantic Canada*, the first in a series that will profile the trade impact on the regional economies of Canada.

MARKET ACCESS RESULTS IN 1999

World Trade Organization (WTO)

New negotiations were launched in agriculture and services aimed at achieving progressively higher levels of liberalization.

Accession negotiations were concluded with three countries — Latvia, Estonia and Jordan — bringing the WTO membership to 136.

Canada and the other members of the WTO Agreement to Eliminate Duties on Specified Pharmaceutical Products implemented the third tranche of tariff cuts associated with this agreement. This phase included 639 additional products, including inputs.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

Total two-way merchandise trade with NAFTA partners reached \$570 billion with 86 percent of Canada's merchandise exports destined for NAFTA countries.

NAFTA ministers completed an operational review of the structure, mandates and future priorities of the NAFTA work program. The review succeeded in reinvigorating

the implementation of NAFTA and securing a management structure to better oversee co-operative efforts.

United States

Anti-dumping and countervailing duty cases against live cattle launched by the U.S. Department of Commerce concluded with neither resulting in duties on Canadian cattle.

An agreement-in-principle was reached on the main elements required to resolve problems resulting from changes to the U.S. International Trade in Arms Regulations (ITARs).

Michigan amended its Single Business Tax legislation, significantly reducing its impact on Canadian companies.

Seven long-standing U.S. anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders were revoked.

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

At the November 1999 FTAA Ministerial in Toronto, ministers agreed to adopt eight measures to streamline and simplify customs procedures and ten measures to enhance the transparency of government rules and regulations affecting trade and investment.

European Union (EU)

Canadian and EU authorities signed an agreement permitting information exchange and co-operation in the area of competition policy and law.

The EU established tariff rate quotas that will enable European food processors to import at least 5000 tonnes per year of cooked and peeled shrimp through 2002.

The EU agreed to allow the importation of Canadian seed potatoes until March 31, 2002.

Other Major Markets

Canada and **China** reached agreement on a wide range of market access issues related to China's accession to the WTO. The comprehensive agreement covers agricultural products, industrial products and services sectors.

Korea and Canada signed the Canada-Korea Telecommunications Equipment Agreement that puts Canadian suppliers of telecommunications equipment on an equal footing with their U.S. and European competitors.

Canada and **Chile** agreed to accelerate the elimination of tariffs on a selection of products. Tariffs on most other industrial and resource-based goods will be phased out by 2003.

New **Japanese** standards and procedures have improved access conditions for Canadian building products, particularly plywood.

Japan approved the import of all varieties of Canadian tomatoes and agreed to discontinue variety-specific testing for Canadian tomatoes.

Substantial reform and deregulation of **Japan's** financial services sector resulted in Canada's largest-ever single investment in Japan.

Canada and **Mexico** signed a satellite services agreement to facilitate the provision of services via commercial satellites licensed by the two countries.

Thailand, in response to representation by Canada, reduced the tariff on canola meal from 10 percent to 5 percent and reduced the tariff on alfalfa from 30 percent to 5 percent.

CANADA'S MARKET ACCESS PRIORITIES FOR 2000

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Canada will pursue Canadian objectives in the ongoing agriculture and services negotiations aimed at further liberalizing international trade in both these sectors. In agriculture, Canada will seek the elimination of export subsidies, the reduction of trade distorting domestic support, and enhanced market access for Canadian exports. In services, Canada will pursue greater market opportunities for Canadian services suppliers, and better access for Canadians to world-class services which will enhance the competitiveness of the Canadian economy. Canada will safeguard our freedom of action in key sectors including health, education and culture.

Canada will work with its trading partners to develop support and momentum for broad-based WTO negotiations. A key factor in achieving this will be to address the concerns of developing countries. Several issues for least developed countries (LDCs) require immediate attention, including improved market access and expanded capacity building (including trade-related technical assistance and a reinvigorated Integrated Framework).

Canada will pursue improvements to the WTO itself by supporting greater transparency, both in ongoing WTO activities such as dispute settlement, and in the conduct of future multilateral trade negotiations. Canada will also work to improve coherence among

international trade, financial, economic and social policies to further strengthen markets and promote economic growth and sustainable development.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

Canada will continue to further facilitate trade and investment by ensuring the effective implementation and operation of NAFTA. Canada will also work with its NAFTA partners to clarify NAFTA Parties' understanding of the provisions of the NAFTA investment chapter and increase procedural transparency.

United States of America

Canada will continue to build on its success in the United States, our most important market. We will ensure that the U.S. respects fully its international trade obligations under the WTO and NAFTA as well as safeguard Canadian interests against U.S. actions that impede access for Canadian goods and services.

European Union

Canada will continue to work closely with the EU to implement trade liberalization steps agreed to under the EU-Canada Trade Initiative (ECTI) which gave particular emphasis to the removal of regulatory impediments to trade. In the agriculture sector, Canada will continue to seek the elimination of export subsidies and the reduction of production-distorting domestic support through multilateral negotiations.

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

Canada will seek to ensure implementation by all countries of the customs facilitation measures agreed to by ministers in Toronto and pursue a collective process of consultation with civil society in the Americas.

Mexico

Canada will seek improvements in access for exports of seed potatoes, dry beans, frozen french fries and mozzarella cheese. We expect to complete negotiations on fixed and mobile satellite services protocols to the 1999 Canada-Mexico Agreement on Satellite Services and we will continue to monitor closely Mexico's implementation of its commitments under the WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Canada will seek development of a comprehensive initiative to strengthen trade facilitation in APEC consistent with the direction provided by APEC leaders in Auckland.

In addition, Canada will continue to strengthen APEC's policy dialogue and capacity building in the area of social policy and structural adjustment.

Other Major Markets

Canada will:

- encourage Canadian and **Chilean** professional service providers, particularly engineers, to continue work on developing mutually acceptable standards and criteria for licensing and certification of professionals. Canada will also monitor Chile's implementation of the WTO liquor tax panel ruling.
- seek the reduction on duties applied by **Japan** to vegetable oils (particularly canola), processed foods, forest products, red meats, fish, non-ferrous metals and leather footwear.
- seek the elimination of specific technical and regulatory barriers in **Japan** to facilitate Canadian exports in priority sectors such as agri-food and building products.
- press **Korea** to maintain its applied tariffs on an open-ended basis and to lock in tariff reductions
- press **India** to respect its Information Technology Agreement (ITA) commitments, particularly for telecommunications.
- ensure **Indonesia** maintains equitable access for Canadian wheat sales, especially in the face of aggressive U.S. wheat competition and subsidized EU flour entering the Indonesian market.
- ensure full implementation and enforcement of intellectual property rules in accordance with **Thailand's** WTO obligations.

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News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

April 6, 2000

(11:00 a.m. EDT)

No. 63

PETTIGREW ADDRESSES NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS SYMPOSIUM ON EXPORTING

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew challenged Canadian associations today to come up with innovative ways in which they can work with the Government of Canada to expand exports. Organized by the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the National Associations Symposium on Exporting will explore how to strengthen public-private sector partnership. It is being held in Ottawa on April 6 and 7.

"Co-operation between government and business is the key to successful exporting," said Mr. Pettigrew. "The government wants to be a partner in exporters' successes. I am confident that we can all benefit from sharing our experiences and innovative ideas.

"Associations are a key link in the exporting process," the Minister added. "They are often the bridge between opportunities our trade policy creates, our Trade Commissioner Service network abroad, and the exporters who make the sales. With exports of goods and services that are now equivalent to 43 percent of the GDP, it is clear that exporting is vital to our continued prosperity and that a partnership with associations is crucial."

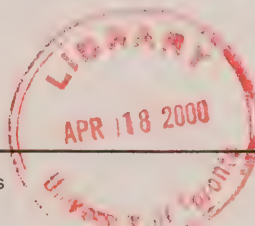
More than 80 delegates from Canadian trade associations representing thousands of members from all industry sectors are attending the symposium. They will be exchanging ideas with other associations and government representatives on how to assist their members in trade development activities. The delegates will have the opportunity to discuss how to develop an export strategy, how to measure export success, options for trade shows and Web sites, benefits of partnering, and e-business.

DFAIT has also set up an info-fair for the event that will provide valuable information to association representatives on the various services the government provides to exporters. For instance, the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service's booth will explain how their more than 500 business professionals in 133 cities around the world can help Canadian businesses access local markets.



Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international



Canada

Yesterday, Mr. Pettigrew released the government's annual market access report, *Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities – 2000*. The report presents significant market-opening results over the past year and outlines the government's priorities for 2000 to further improve access to foreign markets. It highlights the range of initiatives that the government will pursue this year at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels, as well as details on specific obstacles to be tackled in several markets.

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

April 6, 2000

(4:20 p.m. EDT)

No. 64

AXWORTHY OUTLINES CANADA'S UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENCY AGENDA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today outlined Canada's agenda during its April presidency of the United Nations Security Council. The overarching theme for Canada's presidency is human security. Major issues for discussion include the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict; the effectiveness of sanctions; sanctions against the rebel movement in Angola; humanitarian dimensions of conflict in Afghanistan; and the Rwanda Report. The Minister will be in New York on April 7 and from April 14 to 20.

"The protection of civilians and human security have more broadly entered the peace and security discourse of the Security Council. Our goals are to foster a recognition that threats to people are just as important as threats to states, and to mobilize Council action on behalf of civilians who are increasingly targeted in today's conflicts," said Mr. Axworthy.

Afghanistan will be the topic for an open Council meeting on April 7, chaired by Minister Axworthy. During this meeting, Canada would like to focus international attention on the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, particularly the humanitarian and human rights situation and the plight of women.

On April 14, the Minister will chair an open briefing of the Council by former Swedish Prime Minister Ingvaar Carlsson, who led the independent inquiry on the actions of the UN during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The Council will discuss its role in addressing massive civilian suffering and avoiding catastrophes like the Rwandan genocide in the future.

Sanctions issues will be the focus on April 17, with the launch of a Canadian-sponsored report, *The Sanctions Decade*, a comprehensive study by the International Peace Academy of the last 10 years of Security Council sanctions. The report, which proposes recommendations for making sanctions more humane and effective, will be launched by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Minister Axworthy at a symposium in New York involving Security Council members and outside sanctions experts. Mr. Axworthy will lead discussion on general sanctions issues during an open meeting of the Council later that day.



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At an open Security Council meeting on Angolan sanctions on April 18, Canada will lead discussion on the Council's response to the recommendations contained in the March 2000 report of the Expert Panel on measures to tighten sanctions against UNITA.

On April 19, Minister Axworthy will chair an open meeting on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, a central event of the Canadian presidency. April will present a key opportunity both to consolidate and advance this Canadian initiative, which has not only raised the profile of human security, but has also led to concrete action, for example, by giving new UN peace operations in Sierra Leone and East Timor explicit mandates to protect civilians. The meeting will seek to lock in the Council's commitment to the protection of civilians and ensure sustained attention to this issue whenever the Council mandates peace operations, sanctions or other actions where the physical protection of civilians is at issue.

Sudan will not be on April's formal agenda due to the fact that there was not sufficient support from Security Council members to examine how the Council could provide additional support for the Sudanese peace process and enhance humanitarian assistance to the civilian victims of this tragic conflict. Canada will ensure, however, that the plight of the Sudanese people is raised at every opportunity, most notably during relevant Council discussions, as well as within the wider UN system, including the Commission on Human Rights and in other multilateral forums.

"Canada believes that the United Nations, and particularly the Security Council, has an important leadership role to play in enhancing civilian protection and human security," said Mr. Axworthy. "An important aim of the Council's work, and one that we are working toward attaining, must be to safeguard the security of the world's people, not just the states in which they live."

At the start of its Council tenure Canada set three key policy objectives:

- to promote human security as a complement to the Council's traditional state-centred approach to international peace and security;
- to reassert the leadership and effectiveness of the Council on key security issues; and
- to make the Council more open, transparent and responsive.

All events scheduled during Canada's April Security Council presidency are designed to work toward attaining and supporting its stated objectives.

"Our objective was to ensure as many open meetings as possible to make our presidency an example of transparency in practice," the Minister said. "I am pleased that much of the Council's work in April will be conducted in the open and include the wider UN membership."

In addition to the Canadian initiatives outlined, during Canada's presidency the Security Council will also consider Iraq, notably the operational plan for the new UN weapons agency, UNMOVIC, and the situations in Kosovo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- 30 -

Backgrounders are attached

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Backgrounder

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Canada believes that the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, has an important leadership role to play in enhancing civilian protection and human security. The Council's sustained attention is especially critical since civilian casualties and displacement are not merely a byproduct of current conflicts, but often a deliberate war aim of the combatants. Their actions are often carried out with impunity, in direct violation of international law.

As a result of a Canadian initiative during its first presidency of the Security Council in February 1999, the UN Secretary-General presented a report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, which included 40 recommendations. He outlined key measures that the Council and the international community should take, including efforts to promote adherence to international law and combat impunity; to improve conflict-prevention capacity, including through the use of preventive deployments; to strengthen the UN's ability to respond rapidly when a crisis breaks out; to impose arms embargoes; to make greater use of targeted sanctions; to underscore the fact that civilians must have unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance; to authorize missions to close down hate media outlets; and to consider the imposition of appropriate enforcement action in the face of massive and ongoing abuses of human rights and humanitarian law.

Canada chairs an informal working group of the Security Council, and is currently leading negotiations on a draft document aimed at locking in the Council's commitment to key recommendations of the Secretary-General's report. These include those directly related to the Council's mandate and instruments, such as peacekeeping, sanctions and other areas in which the physical protection of civilians is at issue. The Canadian document also calls for regular reports by the Secretary-General to help ensure that the issue of the protection of civilians remains firmly implanted on the Council agenda. Canada is working to ensure that the document is adopted during its April presidency in conjunction with a Council meeting open to participation by the wider UN membership.

We are also exploring the possibility of developing a user-friendly "checklist" to help ensure that considerations regarding the protection of civilians are factored in each time formal action is taken by the Security Council.

After April, Canada plans to broaden participation in the protection of civilians initiative beyond the Security Council by creating a "Group of Friends" — a working group involving the wider UN membership and input from non-governmental organizations.

Backgrounder

SANCTIONS

As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Canada's efforts on sanctions have focussed on issues of effectiveness and humanitarian impact. During the last decade, the Security Council has made unprecedented use of sanctions. The results, however, have been mixed, and pressure for sanctions reform has been mounting. Canada has taken a comprehensive approach towards sanctions with both its sponsorship of an independent study by the International Peace Academy (IPA) of the last decade of Security Council sanctions, and via a case-specific study through Canada's chairmanship of the Angola Sanctions Committee.

Canada believes that for UN sanctions to be credible, they must be enforceable and enforced, and must be designed with a practical end objective. Sanctions must be targeted to hit where it hurts, to impair the effective operation of the offender while avoiding negative humanitarian impacts.

In April, Canada is planning a Council discussion on general issues related to sanctions, with a focus on promoting more targeted sanctions and avoiding collateral humanitarian impacts. Canada intends the meeting to result in the creation of a Council working group to review the Council's approach to sanctions and to provide a forum to discuss proposals for making sanctions more effective and humane.

As chair of the Angola sanctions committee, Canada will lead negotiations through April on the Council's response to the recently released Expert Panel report on violations of the Angola sanctions. Towards the end of the month, Minister Axworthy will chair a substantive discussion of the report which will also establish the Council's initial response to its recommendations.

International Peace Academy Sanctions Study

Building on its analysis of the last decade of Security Council sanctions, the IPA report will make recommendations for more humane and effective sanctions. The IPA report will be launched by Minister Axworthy and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, at a symposium in New York on April 17 involving UN member states and outside sanctions experts. The IPA report is intended to stimulate further debate among Council members and to build new momentum for sanctions reform.

Background

ANGOLA

Angola has been engulfed in civil war almost continuously since independence in 1975. After 15 years of fighting between the Angolan government and the rebel movement UNITA led by Jonas Savimbi, Portuguese mediation resulted in the signing of the Bicesse Peace Accords in 1992. The ensuing multiparty elections in September 1992 were won by President Dos Santos. Although the UN declared the vote to have been generally free and fair, UNITA rejected the results and returned to war. After protracted negotiations, the UN brokered the Lusaka Protocol, which was signed in November 1994. Between then and December 1998 when hostilities resumed, the country enjoyed an uneasy peace while the UN attempted to monitor the implementation of the peace process.

Beginning in 1993, the United Nations Security Council imposed a series of sanctions against UNITA as a means of pressuring the movement to implement its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol. In January 1999, Canada assumed the Chair of the Angola Sanctions Committee as part of its duties as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. As Chair, Canada has led efforts to improve the effectiveness of the sanctions regime.

An important initiative undertaken by the Sanctions Committee was the groundbreaking creation of an Expert Panel, charged with determining the sources and means of violation of the sanctions against UNITA and recommending methods to make them more effective. The report of the Experts Panel, released in March 2000, contained 39 recommendations, which are currently before the Council.

Canada's interest is to bring a sustainable peace to the Angolan people who have known only war for over 25 years. In April, Canada will encourage discussions on the Security Council's response to the recommendations of the Expert Panel Report in order to further enhance the impact of the sanctions against UNITA. Canada will also encourage a resumption of the political dialogue to achieve a durable resolution to the conflict.

Backgrounder

AFGHANISTAN

The human rights situation in Afghanistan is among the world's worst. The ongoing civil war is fought with disregard for the safety and human rights of civilians. In 1992, an unstable coalition of *mujahideen* toppled Kabul's communist regime. A patchwork of separate fiefdoms divided along ethnic, linguistic, tribal and factional lines ensued. Due to the long-standing conflict in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran have, for more than 20 years, been host to some two million refugees, while approximately 1.2 million Afghans remain internally displaced and in need of international humanitarian assistance and protection.

For the past two years, the radical Taliban faction has maintained control over most of the country. Taliban rule controls 90 percent of the country and has brought gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially against women, and instances of ethnically motivated atrocities against civilian populations, including their forced eviction.

Women's human rights began to deteriorate in 1992 when the *mujahideen* factions imposed village-based social values on the cities. The Taliban have carried this regression to extremes. In particular, women have been barred from employment and most girls from schools, restrictions have been placed on health care available to women, and women are required to cover themselves from head to foot when venturing outdoors. Under international pressure, the Taliban have recently shown some signs of easing restrictions on women's access to education and medical care. For example, they have authorized the opening of a number of Taliban-run girls' schools in certain localities, and permitted the opening of a female nursing school and medical college. This modest shift, while welcome, still falls far short of the minimal expectations of the international community.

Canada remains deeply concerned about the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, particularly the humanitarian and human rights situation. In April, Canada would like to focus international attention on the continuing conflict in Afghanistan, particularly the humanitarian and human rights situation, and the plight of women. Canada will chair an open briefing on Afghanistan, the result of which would be a presidential statement by the Council reiterating its call for an immediate end to hostilities and to abuses against civilians.

Backgrounder

RWANDA INQUIRY

In December 1999, an independent inquiry led by former Swedish Prime Minister Ingvaar Carlsson released its report on the actions of the UN during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Commissioned by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the report highlighted the shortcomings of the UN and the international community generally in the face of massive civilian suffering, and the failure of the Security Council to show sufficient political will to give UN peacekeeping missions the tools they need to act promptly and effectively.

The Secretary-General responded honestly and courageously to the report by accepting, on behalf of his organization, a degree of responsibility for the tragedy. A similar reckoning has yet to be made by UN member states that share an equal — if not greater — burden than the UN, which, after all, can do no more than its constituent member states will it to.

Canada believes that the Security Council should build on the lessons of Rwanda in its response to new security challenges, particularly those involving abuses against civilians. During its April presidency, Canada will propose a forward-looking discussion among Council members of the key lessons and recommendations of the Rwanda report. The objective of this initiative is to explore ways of avoiding humanitarian catastrophes like Rwanda in the future. We hope to focus the discussion on the need to provide appropriate mandates to peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, and to match those mandates with the resources needed to do the job.

News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

April 7, 2000

(8:45 a.m. EDT)

No. 65

CHAN TO VISIT INDONESIA AND EAST TIMOR

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today announced that he will visit Indonesia and East Timor from April 10 to 17. Maud Debien, Member of Parliament (Laval East) and Svend Robinson, Member of Parliament (Burnaby-Douglas) will accompany Mr. Chan.

"The last year has been a period of transition in Indonesia and East Timor; one that has seen political developments of historic significance," said Mr. Chan. "My visit is intended to assure our partners of Canada's ongoing commitment to support human security and economic development in the region."

Mr. Chan's Indonesia agenda begins in Yogyakarta on April 10, where he will visit a development project which is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. In Jakarta, he will meet with senior government representatives, including Vice-President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Minister for Human Rights Affairs Hasballah Saad, Attorney General Marzuki Darusman, and House of Representatives Speaker Akbar Tanjung. Mr. Chan is also scheduled to meet with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as Canadian and Indonesian business leaders.

On April 14, the Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) arrives in Dili, East Timor, where he will meet East Timorese religious and political leaders, including Bishop Carlos Belo and Xanana Gusmao, President of the National Council of Timorese Resistance. Mr. Chan last met with Mr. Gusmao when the latter was imprisoned by Indonesian authorities. Also in Dili, Mr. Chan will hold discussions with members of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for East Timor Jean Christian Cady.

Mr. Chan will pay a brief visit to Baucau, where he will tour a clean water supply project and meet with Bishop Basilio Nascimento and other church and NGO representatives. He will also meet UN Peacekeeping Force Commander Jaime de los Santos.

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News Release

www.dfaif-maeci.gc.ca

April 7, 2000

(9:30 a.m. EDT)

No. 66

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will be in Geneva, April 12 and 13, to attend the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR). Minister Axworthy will address the Commission on April 13.

"Respect for human rights and freedoms is fundamental to human security," said Mr. Axworthy. "The Commission plays an important role in examining serious and widespread human rights violations and in furthering international human rights standards. As such, it is an important vehicle for Canada in promoting human rights — in particular for those most vulnerable, such as women, children and Indigenous people."

This year, Canada is sponsoring a resolution on human rights in Sierra Leone. The resolution condemns the atrocities committed during the civil conflict and seeks international support for reconciliation. Minister Axworthy will visit Sierra Leone later this month as part of Canada's effort to encourage peace and stability in that country.

Canada is also taking the lead on resolutions regarding the rights of Indigenous people; the elimination of violence against women; freedom of expression; human rights and mass exodus; the effective functioning of international human rights treaty-monitoring bodies; and measures to combat impunity.

Mr. Axworthy's address to the UNCHR will focus on Canada's international human rights priorities and the importance that Canada places on human rights as the cornerstone of its foreign policy. He will highlight the rights of women, children and Indigenous people.

Minister Axworthy will also release the 1999 edition of *For The Record: The United Nations Human Rights System*. This report is produced by Human Rights Internet, a Canadian non-governmental organization, in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. This is the third annual edition of the publication, which guides the user through UN human rights documentation and human rights activities undertaken by the UN, conveniently arranged by country and theme.



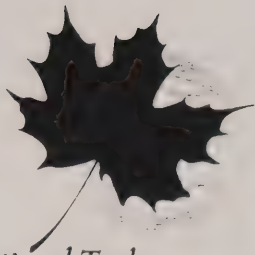
The 56th session of the UNCHR is being held in Geneva from March 20 to April 28. As the main human rights political and policy-making forum of the United Nations, the Commission has an extensive mandate to examine an array of human rights issues. This year, the 53 member states will scrutinize human rights conditions in a number of countries around the world and will consider issues such as abolition of the death penalty, protection of human rights defenders, religious intolerance and racism. The Commission will also adopt two important new instruments aimed at protecting children: an optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, as well as one on the sale of children. Canada actively participated in the negotiation of these new standards.

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

April 7, 2000

(10:25 a.m. EDT)

No. 67

PETTIGREW INAUGURATES THE JARISLOWSKY CHAIR AT UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

Minister for International Trade Pierre S. Pettigrew today inaugurated the Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in International Trade at Université Laval in Quebec City, and announced a \$250 000 federal government contribution toward its establishment.

The Jarislowsky Chair will focus on teaching, research and career training, and will enable the International Trade Centre in Montreal to better serve firms in eastern Quebec.

"Young Canadians interested in pursuing a career in international affairs need world-class educational and research institutions," said Minister Pettigrew. "And for their part, Canadian firms, especially small and medium-sized businesses, must have access to continuing education programs like those the Chair will offer in order to take on the international competition."

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) plans to develop close ties with the Chair. In addition to participating in the work of the technical committee, DFAIT will have a seat on the Chair's Board of Directors.

"Issues related to globalization cannot be ignored; Canada must have the skills it needs to maintain and increase its presence in foreign markets," Minister Pettigrew added.

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News Release

April 7, 2000

(3:20 p.m. EDT)

No. 68

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna, today announced a \$300 000 contribution to the UN Office for the Coordination of Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA). The announcement was made in conjunction with an open meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Afghanistan, chaired by Mr. Axworthy. As president of the Council this month, Canada proposed the meeting on Afghanistan to address the humanitarian and human rights crisis in that country.

The \$300 000 contribution from the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) Peacebuilding Fund will support the activities of local and international non-governmental organizations involved in human rights training and programming. Women and girls are the target beneficiaries of many of the activities of the OCHA Human Rights Trust Fund.

"For over twenty years now, Afghanistan has been racked by continuous civil wars between a constantly shifting cast of combatants, none of whom have achieved legitimacy in the eyes of the world or the Afghan people," said Mr. Axworthy. "The Council has a responsibility to help put a stop to the suffering in Afghanistan by remaining steadfast in its demand for an immediate end to hostilities and the beginning of honest negotiations, reflective of the true aspirations of the Afghan people."

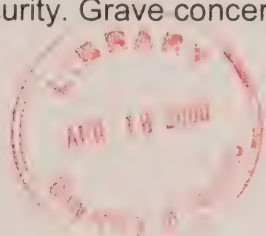
"The situation in Afghanistan has been extremely difficult, especially for women and girls, who are denied access to education and basic health care," said Minister Minna. "CIDA's contribution will help local organizations give a voice to women and help them to protect their rights."

A presidential statement was also adopted by the Security Council, which highlights the humanitarian and human rights situation and the plight of women. The statement reiterates the Council's concerns with the continued Afghan conflict as a growing threat to regional and international peace and security. Grave concern is also noted about the



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further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan as a result of the ongoing hostilities.

At Canada's suggestion, the statement urges all Afghan parties to ensure full and unhindered access to international humanitarian assistance for all those in need, in particular women and girls. The statement also calls for the resumption of negotiations towards a political settlement aimed at the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 2000 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

April 7, 2000

(7:00 p.m. EDT)

No. 69

CANADA WELCOMES ADOPTION OF WTO RULING

The Government of Canada is very pleased that the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body has today adopted the panel's March 17 report validating Canada's early working exception.

"For more than two years, we have vigorously defended Canada's patent regime against this challenge," said International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew. "We are very happy that the report has been adopted by the Dispute Settlement Body and that the European Union (EU) has accepted the panel's ruling. This sends the right message to our WTO partners that the early working exception, a fundamental component of Canada's balanced patent regime, is consistent with international rules."

In Canada, the early working exception allows manufacturers to seek regulatory approval for competing versions of patented products prior to the expiration of the patent term. This exception is particularly important for the pharmaceutical sector.

"Canada's win in the WTO proves that it is possible to have effective patent protection and effective competition that benefit consumers," said Minister of Industry John Manley. "With this positive ruling, Canada will continue to have a very favourable patent regime for the early entry of generic drugs on the market. This is a key benefit for consumers."

"I am pleased with the news," said Health Minister Allan Rock. "We are committed to a high quality, cost-effective health care system. The ruling ensures that Canadians will continue to have access to high quality, lower cost medicines as part of that system."

The panel decided that Canada's stockpiling exception was not consistent with its international obligations. The benefits of the stockpiling exception are minimal relative to the advantage of the early working exception. The Government of Canada will notify the WTO Dispute Settlement Body, within 30 days, of its intention in respect of implementation of this aspect of the panel's ruling.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

April 10, 2000

(4:45 p.m. EDT)

No. 70

PETTIGREW HIGHLIGHTS GROWTH IN BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND SPAIN

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew underscored today the growth of bilateral trade between Canada and Spain, following the signing of a contract between Bombardier Aerospace and Spanish air carrier Air Nostrum. The contract will see Air Nostrum acquire 29 Q300 Dash 8 turboprop aircraft and 15 CRJ200-ER-type regional jets. The total value of the 44 aircraft to be purchased under the contract is \$1.2 billion.

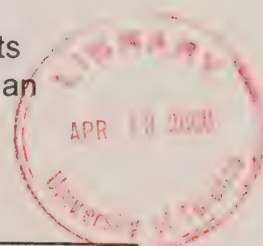
"With the exception of 1996, trade between Canada and Spain has risen steadily in recent years," said Minister Pettigrew, during the press conference following the signing. "This testifies to the solid economic growth recorded by both countries during this period."

Bilateral trade in 1999 totalled \$1.49 billion, the balance of trade favouring Spain. Canadian exports totalled \$633.7 million, up from \$560.7 million in 1998, while imports from Spain totalled \$854 million, up from \$834 million. Mr. Pettigrew indicated that this rise in Canadian exports — even more pronounced in the wake of Bombardier's sale of aircraft to Air Nostrum — signalled a reversal of the trend. The Spanish air carrier also signed a purchase option for 40 other aircraft, which could include turboprops, as well as regional jets.

"Canada's aerospace sector comprises over 400 firms, employs nearly 60 000 Canadians and had sales of over \$15 billion in 1998," said Mr. Pettigrew.

Some 40 Canadian firms are active in Spain in a wide variety of sectors: real estate, information technologies, telecommunications, the environment, recreation, mining, recycling, banking and petrochemicals. Nortel, for one, is doing particularly well in Spain. Moreover, with its recent acquisition of Spain's second-largest printing concern, Quebecor has become Europe's leading printer.

As well, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec has greatly expanded its investments in Spain's telecommunications and real estate sectors, acquiring an interest in Spaincom/Cable Europa and Filo, respectively.



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While Spanish investment in Canada has been concentrated to date in fewer sectors, these sectors make up in importance what they lack in number. They include petrochemicals, fashion, transportation, telecommunications and construction. A large portion of Spanish investment has been directed to Quebec and, more recently, to the transportation sector in Ontario and New Brunswick.

For Canadian firms, Spain can serve as a gateway to the European market. Its economic growth rate, well above average for the countries of the European Union, will no doubt make Spain an increasingly attractive destination for Canadian business investment.

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April 12, 2000

(11:00 a.m. EDT)

No. 71

PETTIGREW HIGHLIGHTS EXCELLENT ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew today welcomed to Ottawa François Huwart, France's Secretary of State for External Trade, on the occasion of the twelfth biennial session of the Joint Economic Commission. This meeting enabled the French and Canadian ministers to take stock of achievements since the signature of the Canada-France Action Program in December 1998, and to develop future co-operation plans.

The discussions of the Joint Economic Commission made clear the shared wish of the parties to further strengthen bilateral economic relations. They also highlighted the importance of strategic partnerships linking French and Canadian business firms, especially in the high-tech sector.

France will assume the European Union Presidency for six months beginning on July 1, 2000. Minister Pettigrew stressed that "it is very important that the excellent co-operation between our two countries intensify during the French Presidency." The discussions concerning the European Union focussed on the agriculture, information technology, telecommunications, aviation and environment sectors.

Ministers Huwart and Pettigrew also discussed certain major multilateral trade issues. They considered possible WTO reform and the importance of preparing for a new round of negotiations. Both ministers reiterated the importance they attach to enhancing and strengthening the links between Canada and the European Union.

In addition to participating in this bilateral meeting, the ministers held discussions with representatives of the French and Canadian aerospace industry associations.

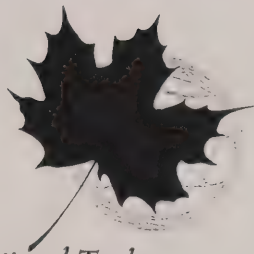
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News Release

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April 13, 2000

(9:00 a.m. EDT)

No. 72

PETTIGREW TO PROMOTE TRADE AND INVESTMENT ON CROSS-COUNTRY TOUR

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew announced today that he will participate in a series of cross-Canada trade events in April and May. These events will reinforce the importance of trade to Canada's economic future and encourage more Canadian companies across the country to engage in exporting.

"We are experiencing one of the longest periods of economic growth and opportunity in our history," said Minister Pettigrew. "It is important to remember that this prosperity is due largely to trade — to opening ourselves to the world and taking advantage of global opportunities. In good times, it is vital we continue to do so and not become complacent."

The Minister's Canada-wide tour will focus on how Canadian companies can work with the Government of Canada to enter the export market, develop new markets, or improve existing trading relationships.

In particular, the Minister will emphasize the importance of extending the benefits of international trade to every region in Canada. About one in three jobs in this country depend on Canadians' success in global export markets.

"International trade is the heart of Canada's economy and significantly contributes to regional economic development. But there is still a great, untapped potential in our country," said the Minister. "Small and medium firms and young entrepreneurs, particularly in the knowledge sector, show enormous promise."

During his tour, the Minister will visit: Montreal (April 14); Winnipeg (April 17); Calgary (April 18); Vancouver (April 19); Sherbrooke (April 26); Mississauga and Toronto (April 27); St. John's (May 23); and Quebec City (May 24).

In addition to speaking to local media and industry groups in each city, Mr. Pettigrew will open export seminars that will bring together local exporters with Trade Commissioners drawn from the more than 130 Canadian trade offices abroad. The



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Minister will also encourage Canadian businesses to take part in the trade missions that he will be leading. These include Australia (May 29 to June 2); Russia (June 28 to 30); Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Slovenia (September 11 to 15); Algeria, Morocco, and Spain (October 10 to 20); and the Middle East. As well, Mr. Pettigrew will participate in the Team Canada Atlantic mission (May 7 and 8).

More than 40 percent of Canada's gross domestic product can be attributed to trade. In 1999, the value of Canada's merchandise exports rose to \$354 billion, up just more than 11 percent from the 1998 figure.

For more information on the Trade Commissioner Service, please visit the InfoExport Web site at: <http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/>

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

April 13, 2000

(9:35 a.m. EDT)

No. 73

AXWORTHY ADDRESSES SUDAN AND CHECHNYA AT UN MEETING IN GENEVA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today emphasized in an address to the 56th UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) session in Geneva the importance of addressing human rights violations wherever they occur. He also announced that Canada has co-sponsored resolutions concerning the human rights situations in Sudan and Chechnya.

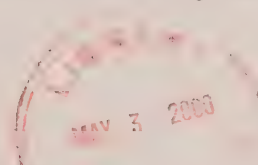
The draft resolution on Chechnya proposes the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry into all allegations of serious human rights violations in the republic, and also supports participation by international experts.

The draft resolution on Sudan condemns bombings of schools and hospitals, the use of landmines against civilians, forced displacement, the abductions of women and children, the killing of humanitarian personnel and denials of access for humanitarian organizations.

"Canada believes that we must use every means possible to ensure that the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which has killed millions and produced the highest number of internally displaced persons in Africa, receives more scrutiny from the international community," said Mr. Axworthy. "The Commission must take a firm stand in urging that all parties to the conflict respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the civilian population and grant full, safe and unhindered access to international agencies and humanitarian organizations."

Minister Axworthy met with Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for Human Rights, to exchange views on the human rights situations in both Sudan and Chechnya.

As part of her engagement approach with Sudan, Mrs. Robinson indicated that a human rights consultant will soon be based at the United Nations Development Program Office in Khartoum. This move follows the March 29 signature of an accord between the UNCHR and the Sudanese Minister of Justice. Mr. Axworthy indicated that Canada would be prepared to work closely with the human rights consultant.



Mrs. Robinson concurred with Mr. Axworthy that the approach of encouraging corporate social responsibility is very constructive in cases such as Sudan. She also offered to send a UNCHR representative to an upcoming meeting being sponsored by the Government of Canada, in mid-May, designed to encourage Canadian corporate responsibility abroad.

In addition to Minister Axworthy's activities in Geneva, Senator Lois Wilson, Canada's Special Envoy to the Sudan Peace Process, is participating in the International Conference on Sudanese Women and Peacemaking being held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, from April 12 to 13. The conference, under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), will bring together women from various regions of Sudan, representatives of the IGAD countries and the IGAD Partners Forum, as well as participants from United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

The objectives of the conference are to give Sudanese women a venue to express their views on the peace process; to find a way to link women's peace activities to IGAD's efforts; to set a peace agenda in Sudan with concrete steps for both Sudanese and international participants; and to contribute to the international development of common policy guidelines on integrating gender and peacebuilding issues. The conference is a Dutch initiative with financial support provided by Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Senator Wilson will also travel to The Hague to attend an IGAD Partners Forum meeting on April 14. The participants will assess the peace process and deal with administrative issues related to its governing body.

IGAD is a regional organization, headed by Kenya, that has been mandated by the Organization for African Unity to lead efforts to bring about a comprehensive and just conclusion to the lengthy civil war in Sudan.

- 30 -

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News Release

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April 13, 2000

(10:00 a.m. EDT)

No. 74

AXWORTHY RELEASES REPORT ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy released the 1999 edition of *For The Record: The United Nations Human Rights System*, while attending the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) in Geneva. The report guides the user through human rights documentation and human rights activities undertaken by the UN, conveniently arranged by country and theme.

"Accurate information is essential for the effective protection of human rights," said Minister Axworthy. "This report provides a valuable working tool for states, human rights organizations and individuals in their pursuit of universal rights and freedoms."

For The Record is produced by Human Rights Internet, a Canadian non-governmental organization, in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. This is the third annual edition of the publication. The report is currently accessible on the Internet at <http://www.hri.ca/fortherecord1999>. Copies in CD ROM and print formats will be available from Human Rights Internet in early May.

The 56th session of the UNCHR is being held from March 20 to April 28. This year, Canada is sponsoring resolutions on human rights in Sierra Leone; the rights of Indigenous people; the elimination of violence against women; freedom of expression; human rights and mass exodus; the effective functioning of international human rights treaty-monitoring bodies; and measures to combat impunity.

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News Release

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April 14, 2000

(11:45 a.m. EDT)

No. 75

AXWORTHY WELCOMES RUSSIAN RATIFICATION OF START II

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy welcomed today's ratification of START II by the Russian State Duma.

"Russia's ratification of START II is a long-awaited, positive step toward the further reduction and ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons," said Minister Axworthy. "Canada urges Russia and the U.S. to seize this opportunity to proceed rapidly on further deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals through accelerated negotiation of a START III agreement."

START II, formally entitled the "Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Offensive Strategic Arms," was signed by the United States and the Russian Federation in January 1993, and ratified by the United States in January 1996. The Treaty commits the two parties to reduce their strategic nuclear arsenals to a maximum of 3500 deployed warheads each, down from a Soviet-American combined total of over 20 000 during the Cold War.

"This news from Moscow sends an important signal to the NPT [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons] Review Conference that opens in New York on April 24," said Minister Axworthy. "The global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime has come under considerable strain in recent years, and the ratification of START II will reinforce efforts by Canada and others to strengthen this vital regime."

In addition to pressing for rapid progress on START III, such efforts include promoting early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and negotiation of an effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

States parties to the NPT meet every five years to review implementation of the treaty and to look ahead to ensure that its provisions continue to be met. Canada will participate in the NPT Review Conference to be held in New York from April 24 to May 19. Minister Axworthy will address the conference on April 25.



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Key Canadian objectives for the Review Conference include securing agreement to an updated five-year action program with new, concrete objectives for disarmament and non-proliferation; seeking a more robust review and assessment process; and promoting both universal adherence to the Treaty and its full implementation.

- 30 -

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April 14, 2000

(12:30 p.m. EDT)

No. 76

PETTIGREW ADDRESSES ALLIANCE OF MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS IN MONTREAL

In a speech today before the Quebec Chapter of the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters, International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew emphasized that the Government of Canada and its Trade Commissioner Service is an excellent partner for Quebec businesses looking to succeed in the global marketplace.

Minister Pettigrew made his address in Montreal as part of the first leg of a cross-Canada tour to promote the importance of international trade to Canada's economic future. He will also visit Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, Sherbrooke, Mississauga, Toronto, St. John's and Quebec City.

"Countless Quebec companies have established a premier presence in the world marketplace," said the Minister. "I'm confident that thousands of others will follow suit, and you can count on me and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to help get you there."

Minister Pettigrew also invited Quebec businesses to take part in several trade missions he will be leading in the coming year. These include: Australia (May 29 to June 2); Russia (June 28 to 30); the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia (September 11 to 15); Algeria, Morocco and Spain (October 10 to 20); and the Middle East.

Over the past 10 years, Quebec's international exports have increased by 130 percent, from \$34 billion to nearly \$78 billion. And over 80 000 new jobs created in Quebec in 1998 and 1999 can be credited to exports, mostly by small and medium-sized companies.

These successes are led by Quebec's new knowledge-based companies in the telecommunications, aerospace, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology sectors, supporting high-quality jobs across the province.

"Trade is about jobs and opportunities for Quebecers and Canadians. It's a means for them to succeed globally and benefit locally," said the Minister. "The Trade



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Commissioner Service is there to support Quebec businesses as they enter the export market, help them develop new markets, and improve their existing trade relationships."

For more information on the Trade Commissioner Service, please visit the InfoExport Web site at: <http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/>.

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News Release

April 17, 2000

(4:10 p.m. EDT)

No. 77

CANADA ANNOUNCES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR IRAQ

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna today announced \$1 million in humanitarian assistance for Iraq.

The humanitarian assistance, funded through the Canadian International Development Agency, will be directed toward the upgrading of primary schools, hospitals and primary health care centres in the south and centre of the country, as well as the repair and maintenance of water treatment plants. The funds announced today will go to UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The assistance is aimed at providing help of particular relevance to children.

"Canada's decision to provide direct assistance to Iraq is consistent with our determination to ensure that the humanitarian needs of the people of Iraq continue to be addressed while sanctions remain in place," said Minister Axworthy.

Mr. Axworthy noted that while the objectives of the Iraq sanctions regime remain clear — to maintain pressure on the Iraqi leadership to meet all of its obligations to the UN, including the return of weapons inspectors, and to block Iraq's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction programs — it is the people of Iraq who have borne the brunt of the burdens of the sanctions period. He called on the Council to do its utmost to help the Iraqi people by ensuring the full implementation of the humanitarian provisions of the resolution on Iraq adopted in December 1999.

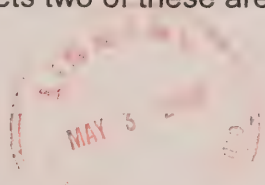
"We remain concerned by the situation the people of Iraq face on a daily basis," said Minister Minna. "This humanitarian aid will help to ease their suffering and to ensure that the most vulnerable in society, namely women and children, have access to much-needed supplies."

A Canadian mission, sent to Iraq last November by Minister Axworthy, identified key areas where Canadian assistance could have a direct, meaningful and immediate impact. Today's funding announcement targets two of these areas.



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Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 2000 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site:
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

News Release

www.dfaif-maeci.gc.ca

April 17, 2000

(4:20 p.m. EDT)

No. 78

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHES SANCTIONS WORKING GROUP; CANADIAN-SPONSORED SANCTIONS STUDY UNVEILED

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, as President of the UN Security Council, today announced the creation of a Security Council working group on sanctions policy, with a mandate to develop recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of UN sanctions. The announcement followed the first-ever open discussion of the Security Council on the effectiveness of sanctions. The working group, which has a mandate to explore ways of targeting sanctions and avoiding negative humanitarian impacts, will report its findings to the Security Council in November.

"I welcome the establishment of the Council working group on sanctions policy. It will have Canada's full support and active participation in seeking ways to improve the design of sanctions and guide future practice," said Mr. Axworthy, who chaired the Council meeting. "Today's meeting was a concrete signal of the Council's determination to work towards more effective and humane sanctions."

A Canadian-sponsored study on sanctions by the International Peace Academy (IPA), *The Sanctions Decade*, was also launched today by Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Minister Axworthy. The study recommends concrete ways for making sanctions "smarter," more humane, and more capable of realizing their potential as a tool for multilateral diplomacy.

Minister Axworthy also announced Canadian initiatives in response to the IPA report. Canada will contribute \$100 000 to commission a follow-up report to *The Sanctions Decade*, which will serve as a report card on reforms undertaken by the Security Council to make sanctions more humane and effective. Canada will also provide a further \$100 000 to commission a strategic management study on ways of upgrading the UN Secretariat's capacity for administering sanctions. Finally, Canada announced it will convene a conference of experts to begin the development of an explicit legal regime to govern the use of sanctions, including standardized policy guidelines and operational principles.



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Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 2000 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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April 18, 2000

(2:25 p.m. EDT)

No. 79

CANADA CONCERNED ABOUT ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN ZIMBABWE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) David Kilgour today expressed serious concern over the increasing violence in Zimbabwe on commercial farms and between political opponents throughout the country.

"Canada looks upon Zimbabwe as a country with a tradition of strong legal and democratic institutions," said Mr. Axworthy. "We are dismayed by the increasing number of land invasions and the risk of escalating and widespread violence."

Canada is concerned, in particular, with the current lack of enforcement of the law, both in the failure of the government to take action on court rulings and the apparent passivity of the police when facing threatening political situations.

"We understand the Zimbabwean government's desire to promote land redistribution in the country on the grounds of equity and poverty eradication. Zimbabweans will have to find a homegrown solution to this emotive and historical problem themselves," said Mr. Kilgour. "However, Canada believes that land redistribution should be conducted in a manner that is transparent, peaceful, subject to consultation with all stakeholders and carried out in accordance with Zimbabwean law."

"Canada calls upon the Government of Zimbabwe to respect the rule of law and to ensure that the rights of all Zimbabwean citizens are fully protected. We also hope and expect that the upcoming elections will be free, fairly administered, transparent, peaceful and conducted with respect for opposing views," said Minister Axworthy.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has advised Canadians to avoid political rallies and public demonstrations in Zimbabwe and not to visit areas where there are farms occupied by war veterans.

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News Release

CANADA ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL 1999 – 2000

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ONU2000UN>

April 18, 2000

(5:40 p.m. EDT)

No. 80

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON ANGOLA SANCTIONS; CANADA TO FUND SANCTIONS INITIATIVES

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, as President of the UN Security Council (UNSC), today announced the adoption of Resolution 1295 (2000) on Angola sanctions, enacting key recommendations of the UN Expert Panel's March 2000 report concerning alleged violations of UNSC measures imposed against the Angolan rebel group, UNITA. Minister Axworthy also announced \$300 000 in funding for specific projects supporting the implementation of Resolution 1295 (2000).

"The resolution adopted today will operationalize many of the Panel's recommendations through specific actions aimed at stopping the illicit trade in diamonds, petroleum and arms, while reinforcing financial and other restrictions on rebel leaders," said Minister Axworthy. "These new measures will only work if the sanctions regime itself is linked to a wider process of negotiation and to the full respect of human rights by all sides. We call on both parties — UNITA and the Angolan government — to demonstrate leadership and to negotiate — and fully implement — an agreement on the basis of the Lusaka Accord."

Canada will contribute \$100 000 to the monitoring mechanism called for in today's resolution. This mechanism will assist the Council in deciding on whether to impose additional sanctions on parties found to be in violation of the Angola sanctions. Its main functions will be to verify the findings of the Expert Panel, monitor actions taken by the countries named in the panel's report, conduct further investigations and make recommendations on new measures, including sanctions, to bring an end to violations of the Angola sanctions.

Canada will also contribute \$100 000 to help fund a conference of experts on the diamond trade. The aim of the conference will be to devise a system of controls that would allow for increased transparency and accountability in the control of diamonds from their place of origin to the diamond bourses.

Finally, Canada will contribute a further \$100 000 to help fund a small arms workshop and parallel non-governmental organizations event. The workshop will take place in Canada and will assist the UN Experts Group, which will be established by the UN in



May, to explore ways of restricting the manufacture and trade of small arms, with a particular focus on Angola.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 2000 budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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News Release

www.dfaif-maeci.gc.ca

April 19, 2000

(12:40 p.m. EDT)

No. 81

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will travel to New York on April 25 to address the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference as head of the Canadian delegation.

"Canada has a long-standing commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons," said Mr. Axworthy. "The NPT is the most effective international tool for achieving our nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, and the cornerstone of peaceful international nuclear co-operation. Global stability and security depend on implementation by the international community of all the obligations of the NPT."

One of Canada's key objectives for the conference is to promote universal adherence to the NPT. Minister Axworthy will urge the four remaining non-members to sign and ratify the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states, and will push for a renewed commitment from member states to live up to their obligations under the treaty. He will also seek to secure agreement on an updated five-year action program with new, concrete objectives for disarmament and non-proliferation, and to enhance the review process on the implementation of the treaty.

"Canada applauds the recent positive steps towards nuclear disarmament, including Russia's ratification of START II last week and the agreement last December by NATO foreign ministers to a Canadian proposal for a thorough review of NATO arms control and disarmament policy," said Mr. Axworthy. "We look to the Review Conference to build on this momentum."

The NPT Review Conference takes place from April 24 to May 19 at the United Nations in New York. Parties to the treaty meet every five years to review its implementation and to look ahead to ensure that its provisions continue to be met.

The NPT entered into force on March 5, 1970. With 187 states now party — missing only Cuba, India, Israel and Pakistan — it is the most widely adhered-to arms control treaty in existence.



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News Release

CANADA ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL 1999 – 2000

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ONU2000UN>

April 19, 2000

(6:15 p.m. EDT)

No. 82

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, as President of the UN Security Council (UNSC), today chaired an open Council meeting resulting in the adoption of Resolution 1296, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

"The victimization of civilians is a cruel reality that none of us can ignore. We need to adapt international practice to make the security of people — their rights, safety and lives — a priority," said Minister Axworthy. "Today's resolution reflects a continuing shift in Council perspective, where the security of people is no longer a by-product but central to its work."

Canada first brought the issue of the protection of civilians in armed conflict to the Council during its February 1999 presidency. The resulting report by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in September 1999 recommended concrete ways to protect civilians who are increasingly targeted and victimized by modern conflicts. Resolutions 1296 and 1265, both drafted by Canada, will help lock in the Security Council's commitment to act on the Secretary-General's recommendations.

Resolution 1296 reaffirms the Council's strong condemnation of the deliberate targeting of civilians in situations of armed conflict and contains specific provisions to enhance the physical protection of civilians caught in the cross-fire of conflict, including:

- unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance;
- preventative action on behalf of civilians at risk;
- explicit protection of civilians in peacekeeping mandates, particularly for women, children and vulnerable groups;
- special attention to disarmament, demobilization and re-integration of former combatants, including child soldiers;
- greater responsiveness to threats of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes; and
- enhanced security for refugees and internally displaced persons.



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Finally, the resolution calls for updated reports by the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians, including recommendations for further action.

“As a further contribution in this important area, Canada will produce a user-friendly checklist based on the provisions in Resolutions 1296 and 1265, to help Council members factor in protection of civilian considerations each time formal action is taken by the Security Council, whether it is new peacekeeping operations, sanctions regimes, delivery of humanitarian assistance or security around camps for refugees and internally displaced persons,” the Minister said.

Canada also announced a \$100 000 contribution to support the work of Francis Deng, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Internally Displaced Persons, in developing and promoting guiding principles for the international community on internal displacement. Canada will also contribute \$65 000 to the Trust Fund for the Security of Personnel of the United Nations in recognition of the difficult work done by humanitarian personnel in situations of armed conflict.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 2000 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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News Release

www.dfaif-maeci.gc.ca

April 26, 2000

(12:30 p.m. EDT)

No. 83

CANADA CONDEMNS EXECUTION OF NGUYEN THI HIEP

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today condemned the execution in Vietnam of Nguyen Thi Hiep. Ms. Nguyen, a Canadian citizen, had been sentenced to death for drug trafficking in March 1997.

"First and foremost, I would like to extend deepest condolences to the family of Ms. Nguyen. Given our understanding that new information relating to her case was being examined by the Vietnamese authorities, this action has come as a shock," said Mr. Axworthy. "I am deeply disappointed that the Government of Vietnam did not accept our request for executive clemency and commutation of the death sentence imposed on Ms. Nguyen."

"Canadian police authorities provided the Vietnamese government with information that needed careful examination in order to establish whether Ms. Nguyen may have been duped into transporting drugs out of Vietnam," said Secretary of State Chan. "Canadian police officials were to go to Vietnam to assist in the examination of this information, and this visit was pending at the time of the execution. It is most unfortunate that the Vietnamese government chose to ignore pertinent information that might have saved Ms. Nguyen's life."

"As a signatory to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, Vietnam has an obligation to impose the death penalty for only the most serious crimes. We do not believe that Ms. Nguyen's conviction for drug trafficking meets this standard," said Mr. Axworthy. "I would like to assure the Nguyen family and its supporters that we will continue to seek a full review of the matter."

Minister Axworthy noted that Canada's concern regarding the drug trade has led to active participation in the international fight to deal with drug trafficking. "Nevertheless, it is equally important that national laws reflect a balance between crime and punishment. Without such a balance, international support for penalties could be eroded."

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News Release

April 27, 2000

(10:40 a.m. EDT)

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

No. 84

CANADIAN AND GHANIAN YOUTH DIALOGUE ON THE INTERNET: IN REAL TIME

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy, today announced that he will be taking part in an interactive Internet discussion broadcast direct from the West African Conference on War-Affected Children, in Accra, Ghana. The Internet discussion will be held today from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (EDT). The Conference on War-Affected Children is being held in Accra, Ghana, April 27 and 28.

At the invitation of War Child Canada, a non-governmental organization, Minister Axworthy and Ghana's Minister of Foreign Affairs James Victor Gbeho, as well as eight African children from war-torn regions of West Africa, will participate in a live and interactive discussion with young Ghanians and young Canadians from 16 schools across Canada. In the first thirty minutes of the interactive discussion Minister Axworthy will answer questions from young Canadians and Ghanians. In the remaining half hour, War Child Canada will provide information about children in situations of armed conflict, and also conduct a survey to find out what the youth think.

For the first time Canada will be linked to the African continent through the Internet and will use this medium to bring youth together from both continents. To be part of the Internet discussion, register at the War Child Canada site, at <http://www.canadalive.com>

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade also has a Web page on war-affected children on its Web site at [http:// www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/war_affected_children](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/war_affected_children)

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News Release

April 27, 2000

(4:30 p.m. EDT)

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

No. 85

CANADA ANNOUNCES REVIEW OF RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today announced diplomatic measures that respond to the Government of Vietnam's execution of a Canadian citizen, Nguyen Thi Hiep. Ms. Nguyen was sentenced to death for drug trafficking in March 1997, but her case was still under examination at the time of her execution on April 25.

"This unwarranted action by the Vietnamese government does not, and cannot, allow for the continuation of 'business as usual' between our countries," said Mr. Axworthy. "I have asked our ambassador to Vietnam, Cécile Latour, who is currently in Canada, to stay here until we have reviewed all aspects of our bilateral relations. As well, I have asked that Canadian officials withdraw an offer to provide training on the World Trade Organization for Vietnamese officials. I am also writing to my Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Dy Nien, to register Canada's concerns."

In this letter, Mr. Axworthy asks the Vietnamese government to respond favourably to the request of Ms. Nguyen's family that her aged mother, Tran Thi Cam, who received a life sentence on the same charge as Ms. Nguyen, be released on humanitarian grounds. The Minister also supports the family's wish for Ms. Nguyen's remains to be returned to them.

"The measures the Government of Canada has taken express our utmost condemnation of the Vietnamese government's action," said Mr. Chan.

Minister Axworthy and Secretary of State Chan also noted that Canadian officials would not attend events sponsored by the Vietnamese government this weekend to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Vietnam war.

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News Release

International Trade
Commerce international

www.dfa.it-ma.eci.gc.ca

April 28, 2000

(12:00 p.m. EDT)

No. 86

PETTIGREW: NEAR EAST A FERTILE GROUND FOR CANADIAN FIRMS TO DO BUSINESS

The Honourable Pierre S. Pettigrew, Minister for International Trade, received a visit in Montreal today from the Transport Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ibrahim El-Demeri, accompanied by several executives from leading Canadian firms.

"The Egyptian economy is growing rapidly, opening up a host of business opportunities," stated Mr. Pettigrew. "We need to be more present in this region, which is why I intend to lead a mission to the Near East early in the year 2001. We will be inviting Quebec and Canadian firms to take part in this mission," added the Minister.

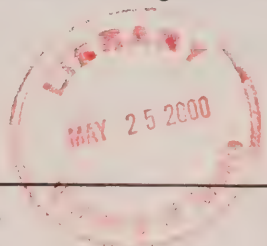
During today's meeting, the ministers and other honoured guests reviewed Egypt's main projects and priorities, particularly in the transportation sector. Several of the business leaders invited to the lunch have already obtained contracts in Egypt or are seeking business opportunities in that country.

For example, during Prime Minister Chrétien's last visit to Egypt, Montreal's SNC-Lavalin was selected as exclusive bidder for an \$180 million water supply project between the cities of Cairo and Suez. Axor, another Montreal firm, is currently completing an \$18 million contract to install a sewage treatment system in Cairo.

Two other Quebec companies are carrying out studies commissioned by the Egyptian government. CSP-Dessau, a Laval-based joint venture, is preparing a study for the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority on a proposed integrated security program for several Egyptian airports. LNS Systems Inc. of Ville Saint-Laurent is conducting a control tower renovation study for Egypt's main airports.

The World Bank predicts that by the year 2010, the countries of the Near East will see their revenues double. "In 1999 the value of Canada's exports to the Maghreb and Near East was \$2.5 billion," Mr. Pettigrew pointed out. "While this figure represents an 11 percent increase over 1994, we can and we must do better." Mr. Pettigrew firmly believes that the Near East mission will help Canadian firms gain a larger share of this huge, rapidly expanding market.

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News Release

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April 28, 2000

(2:30 p.m. EDT)

No. 87

AXWORTHY TO VISIT SIERRA LEONE AND ATTEND COMMONWEALTH MEETING IN LONDON

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will travel to Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom from April 29 to May 3.

Minister Axworthy will use the first-ever visit by a Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister to Sierra Leone to assess the challenges facing the country in the aftermath of an eight-year civil war. He will be accompanied by fellow parliamentarian and special envoy to the country, David Pratt (Member of Parliament for Nepean-Carleton), as well as the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu.

Of particular interest to the Minister are the views of younger victims of the conflict. In Murray Town he will visit an amputees' camp and meet with war-affected children, including former child soldiers, amputees and abducted girls.

"We must harvest the knowledge and ideas of war-affected children in order to combat the practices that led to their victimization," said Mr. Axworthy. "This was abundantly clear at the Conference on War-Affected Children in West Africa I attended in Accra, which Canada and Ghana had the privilege of co-sponsoring."

Minister Axworthy will also meet with the President of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Ahmad Tejan Kabbah; the Chairman of the Commission for the Management of Strategic Resources, National Reconstruction and Development, Foday Sankoh; the Chairman of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Johnny Paul Koroma; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sama Banya. In addition, he will participate in a round table on peacebuilding with representatives of Sierra Leone's civil society.

In Sierra Leone, the Minister will also speak with several UN officials, including the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Sierra Leone, Oluyemi Adeniji, and the force commander of the UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Major-General Vijay Kumar Jetley. There are currently five Canadian peacekeepers participating in the mission. Last November, UN Security Council members supported Canada's initiative, resolution 1270, to give UNAMSIL the right, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, to use force in the protection of civilians and of UN and associated personnel.



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At the 56th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, a Canadian-led resolution on Sierra Leone was adopted by consensus on April 18. The resolution strongly condemned ongoing violations and abuses of human rights in the country while urging all parties to respect the terms of the Lomé Peace Agreement and to take further steps to respect human rights and international humanitarian law. Sierra Leone was among the 25 co-sponsors of the resolution.

Canada has committed approximately \$12 million to peacebuilding efforts in Sierra Leone since 1998. Initiatives supported by these funds include the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission; the development and dissemination of radio programming aimed at reducing conflict and promoting reconciliation in Sierra Leone; human rights training for the country's police force; training for human rights field monitors; medical, psychological, social and legal services for victims of conflict-related rape and sexual violence; support for a Partnership Africa-Canada study on the impact of the Sierra Leone diamond trade on the conflict; and training for West African military officers on children's rights and child protection issues and approaches.

When he leaves Sierra Leone, Mr. Axworthy will travel to London, United Kingdom, where he will attend a meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on May 2 and 3. He will meet with his counterparts from Barbados, Botswana, the United Kingdom, Australia, Bangladesh and Nigeria, and a special representative from Malaysia, to discuss the latest developments in Pakistan and The Gambia. Minister Axworthy will also share his assessment of the situation in Sierra Leone with his Commonwealth colleagues. Finally, the meeting will also provide Minister Axworthy with an opportunity to raise the issue of troubling developments unfolding in Zimbabwe.

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group was created in 1995 to deal with serious or persistent violations of Commonwealth principles relating to democracy and human rights. The composition, terms of reference and operation of the Group are reviewed by the heads of government at each Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The last such gathering took place in Durban, South Africa, in November 1999.

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News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

April 28, 2000

(3:00 p.m. EDT)

No. 88

AXWORTHY CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR WEST AFRICAN PLAN OF ACTION ON WAR-AFFECTED CHILDREN

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the adoption of the Accra Declaration and the Plan of Action on War-Affected Children by West African ministers following a two-day meeting to address the issue in Accra, Ghana. The two documents, based on prevention and child protection in the sub-region, were developed by Ghana in partnership with Canada.

The Plan of Action is a detailed elaboration of the Declaration that presents a menu of specific initiatives specially tailored to prevention and child protection in West Africa. It proposes an annual "West African Week of Truce for War-Affected Children" in all member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to coincide with the Day of the African Child (June 16) and to raise public awareness about the plight of war-affected children. It also calls for ratifying the Statute of the International Criminal Court and bringing to justice those who forcibly recruit and use children in armed conflict.

"The Accra Declaration calls for the immediate release of all abducted children still being held by armed groups in the region," said Mr. Axworthy. "The international community should give its full support to this demand and welcome the proposal for an annual West African truce for war-affected children. We will promote this agenda within international forums, such as the United Nations Security Council, the G-8 and the Human Security Network, and will call for political and financial support for its implementation."

Over the two days, West African youth, civil society, media and governments from across the sub-region examined in great depth the brutality and suffering experienced by children trapped in the midst of conflicts: child soldiers, internally displaced and refugee children, sexually abused girls and boys, and children who have missed out on years of education.

Strengthening the capacity of regional institutions in West Africa to prevent conflicts and protect children was a major outcome of the Conference. Canada is committed to act



with West African governments and the ECOWAS for immediate and longer-term follow-up of this Plan of Action.

In the short term, Canada will provide \$300 000 for the establishment of a child protection unit within ECOWAS. Canada will also assist ECOWAS in engaging the international community in this effort.

As well, Canada will provide \$52 000 to Save the Children Sweden in support of a sub-regional initiative for military training in child rights and protection. Save the Children Sweden will be training instructors in national armed forces on a country-by-country basis within West Africa.

In response to calls from war-affected youth attending the Conference, Talking Drum Studios, a non-governmental organization (NGO) with a great deal of experience in Liberia, will receive \$100 000 from Canada to launch a radio training and capacity-building media project with young people and adults in Sierra Leone.

The recommendations agreed upon during the Conference on War-Affected Children in West Africa are an important step in the lead-up to the Global Conference on War-Affected Children, to be held in Winnipeg in September 2000, and to the UN Special Session on Children in 2001.

Tomorrow, Minister Axworthy and David Pratt, Member of Parliament for Nepean-Carleton and Special Envoy to Sierra Leone, will travel to Freetown with Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Sama Banya and Olara Otunnu, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to visit camps housing former child soldiers and war-affected children. They will also meet with the political leadership and NGOs in that country.

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News Release

May 1, 2000

(3 p.m. EDT)

No. 89

CANADA ANNOUNCES FURTHER VIETNAM SANCTIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today announced the results of Canada's review of bilateral relations with Vietnam. The review comes in the wake of last week's execution of Nguyen Thi Hiep, a Vietnamese-Canadian woman who had been found guilty of drug trafficking four years ago.

"We have yet to receive any reaction from the Vietnamese authorities on this case. The Vietnamese government's public pronouncements about their reasons for proceeding with the execution have not addressed the concerns we raised with them," said Minister Axworthy. "Effective today, therefore, all ministerial-level contact between Canada and Vietnam is suspended, other than contact that occurs in the context of multilateral meetings. In addition, Canada will not support Vietnamese candidates for positions in international organizations."

Minister Minna further strengthened Canada's message to the Government of Vietnam by indefinitely postponing upcoming consultations on existing development assistance and future programming.

"Postponing our annual consultation on development assistance will send a clear signal that we are not satisfied with the response of the Vietnam government," said Minister Minna.

Reports from Vietnam claim that the authorities there had not been convinced by the evidence provided by Toronto police and, therefore, proceeded with the execution. "This is simply not good enough," said Secretary of State Chan. "The Vietnamese authorities did not respond to Canada's requests that the Toronto police visit Hanoi to provide more details of their findings. Proceeding to execution without providing for this opportunity for further discussion was unconscionable."

Mr. Axworthy called on the Vietnamese government to respond favourably to the request of Ms. Nguyen's family that her aged mother, Tran Thi Cam, who received a life



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sentence on the same charge as Ms. Nguyen, be released on humanitarian grounds. The Minister also asked that the family's request for Ms. Nguyen's remains to be returned to them be granted.

- 30 -

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News Release

May 1, 2000

(5:40 p.m. EDT)

No. 90

CANADA ANNOUNCES OVER \$2 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR SIERRA LEONE

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna announced over \$2 million in additional assistance for Sierra Leone to help establish a National Youth Commission to assist war-affected children and provide urgently needed healthcare and support for refugees and displaced people. This brings Canada's total humanitarian and peacebuilding contribution to Sierra Leone to over \$8 million since the peace accord was signed in July 1999.

Minister Axworthy visited Sierra Leone on April 29 and 30, accompanied by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu and by David Pratt, M.P., Special Envoy to Sierra Leone, to evaluate the country's political situation and to renew Canada's commitment to provide support to war-affected children, peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities.

"Many people — particularly children and women — have suffered tremendously during this conflict," said Minister Minna. "Canada has already demonstrated our support for humanitarian and peacebuilding assistance. Today's contribution further strengthens our commitment."

"The issue of war-affected children is one of the priorities on Canada's human security agenda," said Mr. Axworthy. "Fear, mutilation, captivity or death — such is the plight of the child soldiers still involved in armed conflicts in many regions of the world. Canada fully endorses the Declaration and the Plan of Action on War-Affected Children adopted in Accra; and in Freetown, we have taken action to demand that children still held captive by rebel forces in the country be freed."

On April 29, in Freetown, Minister Axworthy and his Sierra Leonean counterpart, Minister Sama Banya, signed a letter of understanding for the creation of a National Commission for War-Affected Children. Canada agreed to commit \$250 000 for the creation of the Commission, which will ensure that the concerns of children become a priority in policymaking and resource allocation at the national level in Sierra Leone.



The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will support humanitarian assistance to refugees, maternity care and resettlement activities by:

- helping the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to continue providing humanitarian assistance to Sierra Leonean refugees living in refugee camps in asylum countries;
- assisting the Canadian Red Cross and the Christian Maternity Hospital in Freetown to provide free medical and surgical maternity care for the destitute and those with life-threatening conditions;
- supporting the International Committee of the Red Cross in providing material assistance to returnees, former detainees, ex-combatants, and other vulnerable people.

Minister Axworthy made this announcement after attending a two-day meeting in Accra, Ghana, on the adoption of the Declaration and the Plan of Action on War-Affected Children. Over the two days, West African youth, civil society, media and governments examined in great depth the brutality experienced by children trapped in the midst of conflicts. A major outcome of the Conference was a call to free all children being held by armed groups in West Africa. Canada is committed to act with West African governments and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for immediate and longer-term follow-up of this Plan of Action.

Mr. Axworthy will be in London on May 2 and 3 to attend a meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), where he will report to his colleagues on his activities in Freetown.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 2000 budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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Backgrounder attached.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site:
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Backgrounder

PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN SIERRA LEONE BY THE PEACEBUILDING AND HUMAN SECURITY PROGRAM DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Support for the Establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (\$65 000)

This initiative involves support for technical advisory services provided by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist Sierra Leone in preparing for the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Media and Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone (\$100 000)

Responding to the need to communicate the provisions of the peace agreement more widely, the Program supported the launching of an NGO training and capacity-building project to involve Sierra Leoneans in the development and dissemination of radio programming aimed at reducing conflict and promoting reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

Support for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) Human Rights Initiatives (\$180 000)

This support is being directed towards human rights training for the Sierra Leone police force, training for human rights field monitors, and the gathering of information on conflict-related rape and sexual violence for submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This information will contribute to ensuring that the appropriate medical, psychological, social and legal services are provided for victims of these abuses.

Support for Partnership Africa-Canada Study on Sierra Leone Diamond Trade (\$31 740)

In its report entitled, *The Heart of the Matter*, Partnership Africa-Canada examined the impact of the diamond trade on the conflict in Sierra Leone, and explored ways in which Sierra Leone's diamonds might become an asset for peace and development.

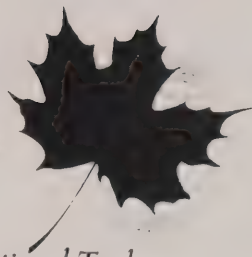
"Train the Trainers" Initiative for West African Military Staff (\$52 000)

Through Save the Children Sweden, this initiative is providing training for West-African military officers in child rights and child protection issues and approaches.

Youth Millenium Project (\$50 000)

In Sierra Leone, a group of youth have joined together to educate others on the provisions of the peace agreement as part of a global initiative co-ordinated by the University of British Colombia to encourage youth to develop an awareness of global issues, empower them to effect change, foster communication and build a sense of community within and across national borders.

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News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

May 4, 2000

(12:00 p.m. EDT)

No. 91

PETTIGREW RELEASES AFRICA TRADE STRATEGY

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew today released the *Africa Trade Strategy*, a plan that was designed to help Canadian businesses expand their trade, increase their market access and strengthen their investment protection in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"Sub-Saharan Africa is a very promising economic region," said Mr. Pettigrew. "The *Africa Trade Strategy* will help Canadian exporters turn the principles of trade into practical realities."

Unlike trade plans for established export markets, the *Africa Trade Strategy* is closely linked to longer-term strategic goals of Canadian foreign policy aimed at helping Africa to reduce poverty levels and integrate into the global economy. An economically buoyant Africa raises the living standards of Africans, reduces the level of conflict and forced migration, and increases Africa-Canada business opportunities and partnerships.

"Africa presents some unique challenges in terms of developing and strengthening trade and business linkages," added Mr. Pettigrew. "This publication is one of many efforts we are undertaking to help Canadian companies compete successfully and take maximum advantage of trade and investment opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa."

To focus efforts more on trade promotion, additional financial resources will be made available to trade offices in Africa and three new trade commissioners from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will be added — one in each of the following cities: Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Lagos, Nigeria; and Nairobi, Kenya.

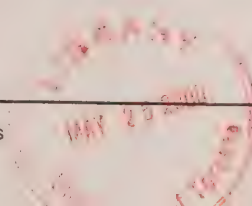
The Minister released the publication during Africa Direct, an event hosted by the Canadian International Development Agency in co-operation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade from May 3 to 17. Africa Direct is a new initiative that will help build closer economic and political ties between Canada and the emerging countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. More than 200 business representatives and government officials from eight Sub-Saharan countries are in Canada seeking to establish business linkages, partnerships and networks with Canadian suppliers and service companies.



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Ministère des Affaires étrangères
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The *Africa Trade Strategy* is available on the following Web site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/africa/continent-e.htm?continent=Africa>.

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www.dfaif-maeci.gc.ca

May 5, 2000

(8:30 a.m. EDT)

No. 92

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE WOLFGANG PETRITSCH TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced today that Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, will visit Ottawa May 8. This will be the first visit to Canada of a High Representative in Bosnia since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement in December 1995.

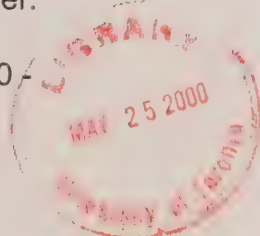
"Canada supports the critical work of the High Representative in ensuring the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement. His visit will be an important occasion to discuss the situation in the Balkans, including Canada's own extensive commitment to the peace process throughout the region," said Mr. Axworthy.

During his visit, Ambassador Petritsch will speak at a Newsmaker Breakfast and meet with Minister Axworthy, Minister of National Defence Art Eggleton and Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna. He will also meet with members of the Standing Committees on National Defence and Veterans Affairs, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Since 1995, Canada has committed over \$93 million to Bosnia and Herzegovina through the Canadian International Development Agency. Canadian peacekeepers have also been present in Bosnia since 1992. In October, Canada will assume command of a sector of the international peacekeeping force in Bosnia, the Multinational Division South-West. The number of Canadian troops will increase from approximately 1400 to 1800.

The mandate of the High Representative, established by the Dayton Peace Agreement, is to oversee the implementation of the Agreement's civilian aspects. As the senior international official in Bosnia, the High Representative plays a central role in ensuring that the Bosnian authorities meet their commitments under the Agreement, and progressively assume more responsibility for the administration of their country. The work of the High Representative is guided by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board, of which Canada is a member.

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News Release

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May 5, 2000

(12:00 p.m. EDT)

No. 93

CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE TO VISIT CANADA

On behalf of the Government of Canada, Senate Speaker Gildas L. Molgat today announced that Li Ruihuan, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of the People's Republic of China, will visit Canada from May 8 to 14.

Chairman Li will begin his visit in Ottawa, where he will meet with Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Senator Molgat and House of Commons Speaker Gilbert Parent. He will observe proceedings in the Senate and the House of Commons and attend a gathering of the Executive Committee of the Canada-China Legislative Association. Mr. Li will tour Nortel Networks in Nepean before proceeding to Toronto on May 10.

In Toronto, Mr. Li will hold meetings with senior provincial officials, including the Premier of Ontario, Michael Harris, and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Gary Carr. He will attend events hosted by federal Minister of Transport David Collenette as well as the Canada-China Business Council. Mr. Li will also tour Bombardier Aerospace facilities in Downsview.

On May 12, Chairman Li will proceed to Vancouver. There, he will meet with the Premier, Ujjal Dosanjh, and be the guest of honour at an event jointly hosted by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Herb Dhaliwal, and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan. Mr. Li will also pay a brief visit to Victoria, where he will meet with Lieutenant Governor Garde B. Gardom.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>.

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May 5, 2000

(12:40 p.m. EDT)

No. 94

AXWORTHY ANNOUNCES VISIT OF OAS SECRETARY-GENERAL

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), César Gaviria, will make an official visit to Ottawa on May 8 and 9. The purpose of his visit is to discuss the 30th OAS General Assembly, which takes place from June 4 to 6 in Windsor, Ontario.

"As the Organization of American States enters the new century, we need to reinforce the ties that connect us and bring together our shared experience for the benefit of all people in the Americas," said Minister Axworthy. "I am delighted that Canada is hosting the General Assembly at this key juncture for the Americas, and I welcome the visit by Secretary-General Gaviria in advance of this important event."

The OAS is the premier political forum for multilateral dialogue and decision making in the Americas. Foreign ministers from 34 countries will meet at the OAS General Assembly, which Canada is hosting for the first time.

Secretary-General Gaviria will meet with Minister Axworthy on May 8 to discuss the OAS General Assembly and how it will unfold. Mr. Axworthy will take the opportunity to highlight aspects of the human security agenda which Canada plans to advance at the General Assembly, such as war-affected children, corporate social responsibility and threats to people from the illicit trade in drugs. Mr. Gaviria will also meet briefly with Speaker of the Senate Gildas Molgat.

On May 9, Mr. Gaviria will speak at a Newsmaker Breakfast at the National Press Club. Following this, he will meet with Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray.

"Canada will seek to make Windsor a more inclusive General Assembly, in the spirit of institutional transparency and openness," said Minister Axworthy. "We expect the largest civil society contingent yet to be seen at an OAS General Assembly to gather for this occasion."



As a lead-up to the General Assembly, the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD) will host a three-day gathering of civil society members to discuss hemispheric integration and democratic challenges in the Americas. About 750 people will participate in the symposium, which takes place from June 3 to 5. Minister Axworthy will address the symposium on June 4.

The annual General Assembly provides a forum for high-level decisions and debates on major hemispheric issues affecting the well-being of the people of the Americas. It also serves to establish the priorities of the OAS for the year ahead.

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News Release

May 5, 2000

(1:15 p.m. EDT)

No. 95

CANADA TO APPEAL WTO RULING

The Government of Canada will appeal a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel report that concluded that Canada's term of patent protection for pre-1989 patents is inconsistent with Canada's obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Under Canada's Patent Act, the term of protection of patents based on applications filed before October 1, 1989 ("Old Act" patents), is 17 years from the date the patent is granted. The Panel reasoned that this does not meet the minimum term of patent protection required under TRIPS. The Panel concluded that under TRIPS a minimum term of 20 years from the date the patent application is filed must be available.

"Canada is committed to meeting its international trade obligations. But we are not satisfied with the panel's findings and will appeal the decision to the WTO Appellate Body," said International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew.

The WTO panel was established in September 1999 to examine the U.S. allegation that Canada's patent regime is not in conformity with the TRIPS Agreement. Canada has argued that proper interpretation of the Agreement accommodates the "Old Act" patent term.

Patents based on applications filed on or after October 1, 1989 ("New Act" patents) have a term of 20 years from the date of filing and are not at issue in the dispute.

"Canada's patent regime establishes a strong foundation for innovation and economic growth. We believe that the panel erred in law," said Minister of Industry John Manley.

"While only a few patents in question relate to pharmaceuticals, it is important that we proceed with an appeal to continue to defend our regime," said Health Minister Allan Rock.

Under WTO rules, Canada has at least 20 days to formally notify the WTO Dispute Settlement Body of its decision to appeal the report. The WTO dispute settlement rules



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include provisions allowing parties to appeal panel reports on issues of law and legal interpretation.

The WTO Panel report is available on the following Web page: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/dispute-e.asp>

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A backgrounder is attached.

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This document is also available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Internet site: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>.

Backgrounder

WTO PANEL REPORT ON U.S. CHALLENGE OF CANADA'S PATENT TERM

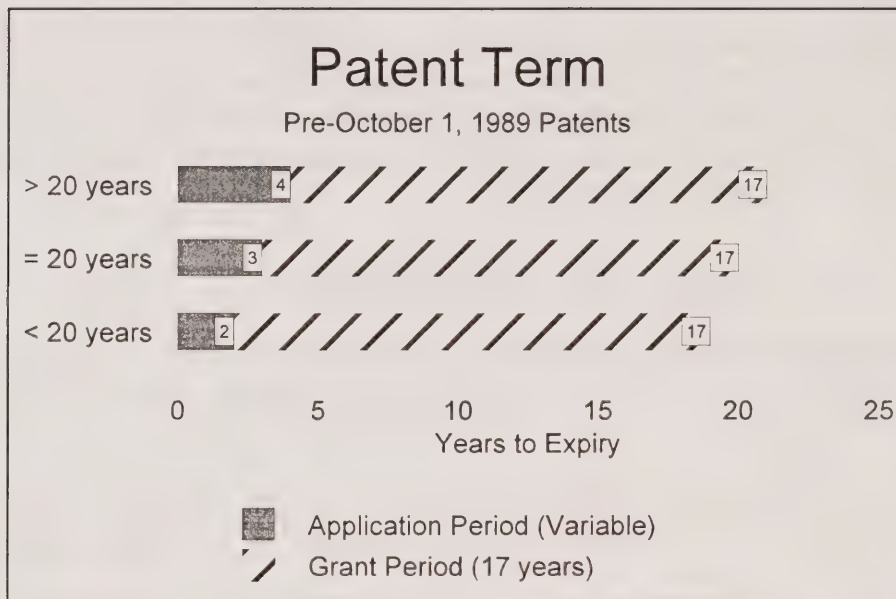
At the request of the United States, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) established a panel in September 1999 to examine Canada's term of protection for patents issued on the basis of applications filed before October 1, 1989. The United States alleged that the term of protection conferred on these patents was inconsistent with Canada's obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

Canada's Patent Act contains two term-of-protection provisions:

- the term of patents based on applications filed before October 1, 1989 (section 45 of the Act), is 17 years counted from the date the patent is granted ("Old Act" patents);
- the term of patents based on applications filed on or after October 1, 1989 (section 44 of the Act), is 20 years counted from the date the patent application is filed ("New Act" patents).

The 1987 Act to Amend the Patent Act (Bill C-22) introduced the 20-year from filing term of protection into Canadian law, effective October 1, 1989. Previously, all patents had a term of protection of 17 years counted from the date of grant.

The United States has alleged that TRIPS requires a minimum term of 20 years counted from the date of filing for all patents. The dispute thus concerns Old Act patents that were granted within three years from filing of applications.



During the WTO Panel proceedings, Canada argued that Old Act patents had, on balance, equivalent protection to New Act patents, and that a term of 20 years from the date of application filing was available. Canada also argued that the term of protection provisions of the TRIPS Agreement did not have retroactive application to patents granted before TRIPS came into force. The Panel rejected Canada's arguments.

Number of Patents at Issue

As of January 1, 2000, there were 169 966 Old Act patents outstanding. Of these, 103 030 have a term of protection greater than 20 years from the date of filing and are not at issue in the dispute. The remaining 66 936 Old Act patents have a term of less than 20 years counted from the date of filing. Of the latter, 77 percent have a term of protection greater than 19 years counted from the date of filing. In other words, for more than three-quarters of the 66 936 affected patents, the term of protection at issue in the dispute is less than one year. This challenge concerns patents across all fields of technology; clearly, not all patents have commercial value.

This dispute is unrelated to the recent WTO decision with respect to the European Union's complaint about Canada's patent regime. In the EU dispute, the WTO validated Canada's early working exception, a fundamental element of our patent policy. The early working exception allows manufacturers to seek regulatory approval for competing versions of patented products prior to the expiration of the patent term. On

April 25, 2000, Canada indicated to the DSB its intention to implement the panel's other finding that Canada's stockpiling exception is not consistent with our international obligations. The stockpiling exception allows pharmaceutical manufacturers to stockpile quantities of product during the six months prior to the expiration of the patent.

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News Release

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca

May 5, 2000

(3:00 p.m. EDT)

No. 96

CANADA RE-ELECTED TO UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the re-election of Canada to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), for the 2001 to 2003 term. This re-election marks Canada's fifth consecutive term on the UNCHR.

The election took place on May 3 at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN in New York. Canada was one of four candidates (a fifth country had withdrawn its bid), for the three seats available for the Western European and Others Group. Canada was elected on the first ballot with 39 votes, with a total of 54 ECOSOC member countries eligible to vote. The other successful candidates were Belgium and the United Kingdom.

"The promotion and protection of human rights is a fundamental and integral part of Canadian foreign and domestic policies, and continued membership on the UNCHR is a priority," said Minister Axworthy. "Over the years, Canada has been a key participant in the evolution of human rights principles and practices. Our re-election will allow us to continue to play a prominent role in the advancement and management of international human rights issues."

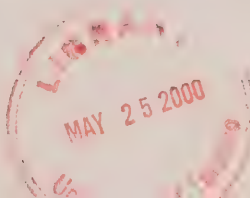
During its last term on the Commission, Canada led on more resolutions than any other single delegation; actively participated in negotiating almost all resolutions adopted; and was the principal sponsor of a number of key thematic resolutions, including those on mass exoduses, impunity, indigenous rights, freedom of expression and effective functioning of treaty bodies.

This year Canada was successful in having six resolutions adopted by consensus with broad support from countries in all regions. In addition, a third mandate for the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, which was created in 1994 at Canada's initiative, was successfully renewed. At this year's Commission, Canada also initiated, in co-operation with the Government of Sierra Leone, a resolution calling for accountability of past violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and a renewed commitment to peace and reconciliation in that country, as well as continued support for the UNAMSIL task force. Canada also co-sponsored 58 other resolutions, including strong texts on Chechnya and Sudan.



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The UNCHR is the UN body responsible for overseeing the full range of international human rights standards: civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the protection of minorities and the prevention of all forms of discrimination. The UNCHR also mandates independent experts to monitor and report on situations in specific countries that have been placed on its agenda.

- 30 -

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News Release

May 9, 2000

(2:30 p.m. EDT)

No. 97

WTO CONFIRMS BRAZILIAN TRADE SUBSIDY IS STILL ILLEGAL

International Trade Minister Pierre S. Pettigrew and Industry Minister John Manley welcomed today's World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling that found that Brazil's Proex program continues to be an illegal export subsidy. This week, Canada will take steps to protect its interests by seeking WTO authority to retaliate against Brazil.

"This ruling confirms that Brazil is continuing to subsidize its regional aircraft industry at the expense of Canadian exporters," said Mr. Pettigrew. "We expect Brazil to remove this subsidy, and we are prepared to discuss implementation measures. However, we must protect our WTO rights in the event that Brazil does not comply with the ruling."

The WTO also found that the significant changes that the Government of Canada had made to restructure the federal program, Technology Partnerships Canada, had brought the program in line with Canada's international obligations. Moreover, the WTO panel clarified the changes that are required to render Canada Account, a program operated by Export Development Corporation, fully compliant. Canada welcomes this clarification, is implementing the suggested changes and will not appeal the ruling.

"We are extremely pleased that the WTO has confirmed TPC's compliance," said Minister Manley. "This sends a strong signal of our government's commitment to supporting technological innovation and R&D in a manner that is fully consistent with our international trade agreements."

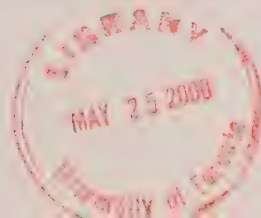
In August 1999, a WTO Appellate Body ruled that Brazil had to withdraw its prohibited Proex export subsidy, a program that offers substantially reduced interest rates to clients of the Brazilian aircraft manufacturer, Embraer.

The WTO ruled in favour of Canada today, finding that Brazil had failed to remove the export subsidies for regional aircraft under Proex and that the changes that Brazil made to the program were vastly inadequate to bring it into compliance. The panel criticized Brazil's failure to do anything about Proex support for future aircraft deliveries under contracts signed before the November 18, 1999 implementation deadline. As a result of the ruling, Proex support must be withdrawn from more than 900 undelivered Brazilian



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regional aircraft. Customers of Embraer, the Brazilian regional aircraft manufacturer, could face higher aircraft prices following this decision.

In the face of Brazilian non-compliance and in the absence of a negotiated settlement, Canada is required to take action by May 12 to protect its WTO rights.

Canada will therefore ask the WTO for authorization to take appropriate countermeasures against imports from Brazil of up to \$700 million per annum for a period of seven years. This amount is equivalent to the benefits provided to the Brazilian regional aircraft industry by the illegal Proex export subsidy.

Retaliation is likely to take the form of surtaxes on certain products, along with other measures. A *Canada Gazette* Notice will be issued on May 13 outlining the proposed retaliatory measures and seeking comments from interested Canadians. No retaliatory action will be taken until the government has fully consulted with Canadians and the WTO has authorized retaliation by Canada.

- 30 -

Background material is attached, including a history of the dispute, as well as information on possible retaliatory measures.

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Backgrounder

CANADA-BRAZIL REGIONAL AIRCRAFT DISPUTE

Negotiations

Brazil's Proex export subsidy program reduces the interest rate on financing for exports of Brazilian aircraft by 3.8 percentage points. Depending on the aircraft, this can amount to a subsidy of 15 percent or between US\$2.5 and 4.5 million per aircraft. This program has been distorting the market for regional aircraft and as a result has had a direct negative impact on the Canadian aircraft manufacturing sector.

In an attempt to resolve this issue, Canada requested consultations with Brazil on June 18, 1996, under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Initial discussions were not successful and Canada requested the establishment of a WTO Panel to rule on the legality of Proex. However, a tentative agreement to continue negotiations was reached and Canada withdrew its request for a panel in hopes of settling the dispute diplomatically.

In an effort to intensify the consultations, Prime Minister Chrétien and Brazilian President Cardoso each appointed special envoys in January 1998 to continue the negotiations. This process took place between February 1998 and June 1998. Negotiations failed.

WTO Panels

On July 10, 1998, Canada, again, requested a WTO Panel to examine Brazil's Proex. In response, Brazil requested a WTO Panel on a range of Canadian programs, including export financing by Export Development Corporation (EDC) and Industry Canada support for research and development. On March 12, 1999, the WTO Panel on Proex ruled in Canada's favour, and declared that the Proex subsidy for regional aircraft is a prohibited export subsidy. The Panel on Canadian programs found all but two Canadian measures to be consistent with WTO rules. These were: Canada Account debt financing for regional aircraft since 1995, and Technology Partnerships Canada (TPC) assistance to the regional aircraft industry.

Appeals

Canada appealed the panel ruling on TPC and Brazil appealed the ruling on Proex. On August 2, 1999, the WTO Appellate Body confirmed Canada's win on Proex as well as the adverse rulings on TPC. The Appellate Body also confirmed the Panel ruling that these programs, as they apply to regional aircraft, be withdrawn within 90 days from the date of adoption of the reports. On August 20, 1999, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in a special session, adopted the decisions of the panels and of the Appellate Body in the Canada/Brazil aircraft cases. As a result the deadline for the withdrawal of the affected programs became November 18, 1999.

On November 18, 1999, Canada announced that it had taken action to bring the two affected programs into full compliance with the WTO rulings. In this respect, TPC terminated all obligations to disburse funds to the Canadian regional aircraft industry. As a result, TPC cancelled some \$16.4 million of funding pursuant to contribution agreements that were in effect at the time, as well as the conditional approval that had been given to two other regional aircraft projects. In addition, TPC was significantly restructured to ensure that all future transactions would be compliant with the WTO, and although the ruling only applied to TPC funding for regional aircraft, these changes were implemented for all eligible sectors. The changes included a modification of TPC's objectives, definition of eligible activities, a re-orientation of assessment criteria, enhanced transparency, and a restructuring of risk and reward sharing.

Canada also made changes to EDC's Canada Account by issuing a policy guideline that ensured that future Canada Account financing transactions would be in accordance with the disciplines of the OECD Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits.

Consultations with Brazil prior to November 18, 1999, indicated that Brazil was not taking steps to comply with the ruling and that it would not withdraw its illegal Proex export subsidy for regional aircraft.

Compliance Panels

In the face of continued Brazilian non-compliance with the WTO rulings, Canada asked the WTO to determine whether Brazil had fully implemented the WTO ruling. In response, Brazil requested a panel on Canada's compliance. The panel report on Proex issued on May 9, 2000, confirmed that Brazil has not complied with the WTO rulings. The panel specifically addressed and rejected all of the arguments put forward by Brazil as to why it should not be asked to comply. In particular, the panel rejected Brazil's attempt to hide behind contract promises as a means to avoid fulfilling its WTO obligations. The panel also dismissed Brazil's claim that Proex support was necessary in order to counteract high domestic interest rates, brought about by "Brazil risk." The panel specifically determined that the continued issuance of Proex bonds by Brazil for contracts concluded prior to November 18, 1999, was a categorical violation of the WTO ruling. It also found that the modifications made by Brazil to Proex for contracts concluded after November 18, 1999, did not comply with the ruling.

Thus the panels fully endorsed the position that Canada has been maintaining since the start of this case: Proex is illegal and cannot continue to be offered for undelivered aircraft or for new contracts.

The panel on Canada's compliance ruled that it had fully complied with the ruling on TPC, but that changes to Canada Account did not go far enough. In this respect,

Canada welcomes the further guidance provided by the compliance panel and is taking immediate action to implement this decision.

There are currently no Canadian regional aircraft export sales that would be affected by the ruling. The Brazilian aircraft manufacturer, Embraer, however has firm orders and options for more than 900 aircraft on which the illegal Proex subsidy must be withdrawn if Brazil is to comply with the WTO rulings.

The Government of Brazil has made no effort to comply with the rulings. The Proex program continues to distort the regional aircraft market not only at the expense of Canadians but also at the expense of manufacturers of regional aircraft worldwide.

Backgrounder

CANADA-BRAZIL REGIONAL AIRCRAFT DISPUTE RETALIATION MEASURES

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has confirmed that Brazil has not complied with WTO rulings to remove its illegal Proex subsidy on exports of regional aircraft. Brazil's failure to comply with its international obligations forces Canada to take action to protect its WTO rights. The Government of Canada is requesting comments from Canadians regarding the steps that Canada may have to invoke to protect these rights. In light of the WTO timetables, Canada has requested WTO approval to take action to suspend concessions on imports from Brazil of up to \$700 million per year over a period of seven years. The Government of Canada will not implement retaliatory actions until it has consulted with Canadians and has received the approval of the WTO.

At this time there is no indication that the Government of Brazil intends to comply with the WTO rulings by removing its illegal Proex export subsidy for regional aircraft. Compliance would require the withdrawal of Proex for all undelivered aircraft. The Government of Canada embarked on this WTO litigation after two years of negotiations failed to resolve the matter. Canada remains positively disposed to bilateral resolution of this matter.

If authorized by the WTO and taking into account comments received from Canadians, Canada intends to take all or some of the following actions. These actions would be rescinded in the event of compliance by Brazil with the WTO rulings or in the event of a negotiated solution with Brazil.

1. The application of a 100 percent surtax on selected imports from Brazil. The surtax will be in addition to any existing rate of duty on these imports. The initial list includes most industrial and agricultural products. A preliminary list of products, based on the Harmonized System of Tariff Classification, from which items could be selected for imposition of a surtax, is attached.
2. Suspension of Brazil from the list of countries eligible for General Preferential Tariff (GPT) treatment. The GPT is a unilateral tariff preference granted by Canada for most imports from developing countries. For more information on the GPT eligibility please consult the Customs Tariff on the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) Web site at www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca.
3. Suspension of injury inquiries under the Special Import Measures Act (SIMA) in countervailing duty investigations in respect of subject goods from Brazil that benefit from Proex subsidies. The WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures stipulates that countervailing duties can only be imposed following determinations that the subject imports are subsidized and

that they are causing or threatening to cause material injury to producers of like goods in the importing country. The suspension of injury determinations under the SIMA would allow for the imposition of countervailing duties upon a determination that the subject imports benefit from Proex subsidies. For more information on Canada's anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws, please visit the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) web site at www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca.

4. Suspension of Canada's obligations to Brazil under the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. This agreement sets out conditions for the application of quantitative restraints on imports of textiles and clothing products, as well as for the gradual elimination of such restraints. Suspension of obligations would allow Canada to impose restraints on imports of textiles and clothing outside of the provisions of the agreement. For more information on Canada's Export and Import Controls regulations, please visit the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade - Export and Import Controls Bureau Web site www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~eicb
5. Suspension of Canada's obligations to Brazil under the WTO Agreement on Import Licensing. Suspension of the obligations would allow Canada to impose special licensing requirements on imports from Brazil. For more information on Canada's Export and Import Controls regulations, please visit the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade - Export and Import Controls Bureau Web site www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~eicb.

As stated above, the government will not take any action pending completion of consultations with Canadians and approval by the WTO. Views are solicited not only on the actions outlined above but also on any other action that interested Canadians may wish to recommend in order to enable Canada to exercise its WTO rights.

Invitation to Submit Views

Interested parties are invited to submit comments and suggestions by June 13, 2000. Comments should be submitted in writing to:

Trade Remedies Division (EAR)
 Department of Foreign Affairs
 and International Trade (DFAIT)
 Lester B. Pearson Building,
 125 Sussex Drive,
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0G2

Fax to: 1-800-769-0674

E-mail: aircraft-aeronef@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

TTY: 1-800-465-7735

If you require further information, or to submit comments electronically, we invite you to visit our DFAIT Web site at: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/dispute-e.asp>

For further inquiries or to have an information package sent to you, please call: 1-800-394-3472, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EDT.

Tariff Chapter/ Heading/ Sub-heading	Description
1	Live animals
2	Meat and edible meat offal
3	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates
4	Dairy produce; bird's eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included
5	Products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included
6	Live trees and other plants; bulbs, roots and the like; cut flowers and ornamental foliage
7	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers
8	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons
9	Coffee, tea, maté and spices
10	Cereals
11	Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten
12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder
13	Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts
14	Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included
15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes
16	Preparations of meat, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates
170191	Refined Sugar
170199	Refined Sugar
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations
19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products
2001	Vegetables, fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid
2002	Tomatoes prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid
2003	Mushrooms and truffles, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid
2004	Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, frozen, other than products of heading No. 20.06
2005	Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen, other than products of heading No. 20.06
2006	Vegetables, fruit, nuts, fruit-peel and other parts of plants, preserved by sugar (drained, glacé or crystallised)

2007	Jams, fruit jellies, marmalades, fruit or nut purée and fruit or nut pastes, being cooked preparations, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter
2008	Fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants, otherwise prepared or preserved, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or spirit, not elsewhere specified or included
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar
23	Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes
29	Organic chemicals
30	Pharmaceutical products
31	Fertilizers
32	Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other colouring matter; paints and varnishes; putty and other mastics; inks
33	Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations
34	Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, prepared waxes, polishing or scouring preparations, candles and similar articles, modelling pastes, "dental waxes" and dental preparations with a basis of plaster
35	Albuminoidal substances; modified starches; glues; enzymes
36	Explosives; pyrotechnic products; matches; pyrophoric alloys; certain combustible preparations
37	Photographic or cinematographic goods
38	Miscellaneous chemical products
39	Plastics and articles thereof
42	Articles of leather; saddlery and harness; travel goods, handbags and similar containers; articles of animal gut (other than silk-worm gut)
43	Furskins and artificial fur; manufactures thereof
4401	Fuel wood, in logs, in billets, in twigs, in faggots or in similar forms; wood in chips or particles; sawdust and wood waste and scrap, whether or not agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms
4402	Wood charcoal (including shell or nut charcoal), whether or not agglomerated.
4403	Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared
4404	Hoopwood; split poles; piles, pickets and stakes of wood, pointed but not sawn lengthwise; wooden sticks, roughly trimmed but not turned, bent or otherwise worked, suitable for the manufacture of walking-sticks, umbrellas, tool handles or the like; chipwood and the like
4405	Wood wool; wood flour
4406	Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood
4410	Particle board and similar board of wood or other ligneous materials, whether or not

	agglomerated with resins or other organic binding substances
4411	Fibreboard of wood or other ligneous materials, whether or not bonded with resins or other organic substances
4413	Densified wood, in blocks, plates, strips or profile shapes
4414	Wooden frames for paintings, photographs, mirrors or similar objects
4415	Packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, of wood; cable-drums of wood; pallets, box pallets and other load boards, of wood; pallet collars of wood
4416	Casks, barrels, vats, tubs and other coopers' products and parts thereof, of wood, including staves
4417	Tools, tool bodies, tool handles, broom or brush bodies and handles, of wood; boot or shoe lasts and trees, of wood
4418	Builders' joinery and carpentry of wood, including cellular wood panels, assembled parquet panels, shingles and shakes
4419	Tableware and kitchenware, of wood
4420	Wood marquetry and inlaid wood; caskets and cases for jewellery or cutlery, and similar articles, of wood; statuettes and other ornaments, of wood; wooden articles of furniture not falling in Chapter 94
4421	Other articles of wood
45	Cork and articles of cork
46	Manufactures of straw, of esparto or of other plaiting materials; basketware and wickerwork
4701	Mechanical wood pulp
4702	Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades
4704	Chemical wood pulp, sulphite, other than dissolving grades
4705	Semi-chemical wood pulp
4706	Pulps of fibres derived from recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard or of other fibrous cellulosic material
4707	Recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard
48	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard
50	Silk
51	Wool, fine or coarse animal hair; horsehair yarn and woven fabric
52	Cotton
53	Other vegetable textile fibres; paper yarn and woven fabrics of paper yarn
54	Man-made filaments
55	Man-made staple fibres
57	Carpets and other textile floor coverings
58	Special woven fabrics; tufted textile fabrics; lace; tapestries; trimmings; embroidery

59	Impregnated, coated, covered or laminated textile fabrics; textile articles of a kind suitable for industrial use
60	Knitted or crocheted fabrics
61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted
62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted
6301	Blankets and travelling rugs.
6302	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen
6303	Curtains (including drapes) and interior blinds; curtain or bed valances
6304	Other furnishing articles, excluding those of heading No. 94.04
6306	Tarpaulins, awnings and sunblinds; tents; sails for boats, sailboards or landcraft; camping goods
6307	Other made up articles, including dress patterns
6308	Sets consisting of woven fabric and yarn, whether or not with accessories, for making up into rugs, tapestries, embroidered table cloths or serviettes, or similar textile articles, put up in packings for retail sale
6309	Worn clothing and other worn articles
6310	Used or new rags, scrap twine, cordage, rope and cables and worn out articles of twine, cordage, rope or cables, of textile materials
64	Footwear, gaiters and the like; parts of such articles
65	Headgear and parts thereof
66	Umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking-sticks, seat-sticks, whips, riding-crops and parts thereof
67	Prepared feathers and down and articles made of feathers or of down; artificial flowers; articles of human hair
68	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials
69	Ceramic products
70	Glass and glassware
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin
7208	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, hot-rolled, not clad, plated or coated
7209	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, cold-rolled (cold-reduced), not clad, plated or coated
7210	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, clad, plated or coated
7211	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm, not clad, plated or coated
7212	Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm, clad, plated or coated
7214	Other bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel, not further worked than forged,

	hot-rolled, hot-drawn or hot-extruded, but including those twisted after rolling
7215	Other bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel
7216	Angles, shapes and sections of iron or non-alloy steel
7217	Wire of iron or non-alloy steel
7219	Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of 600 mm or more
7220	Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of less than 600 mm
7221	Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of stainless steel
7222	Other bars and rods of stainless steel; angles, shapes and sections of stainless steel
7223	Wire of stainless steel
7225	Flat-rolled products of other alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more
7226	Flat-rolled products of other alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm
7227	Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of other alloy steel
7228	Other bars and rods of other alloy steel; angles, shapes and sections, of other alloy steel; hollow drill bars and rods, of alloy or non-alloy steel
7229	Wire of other alloy steel
7301	Sheet piling of iron or steel, whether or not drilled, punched or made from assembled elements; welded angles, shapes and sections, of iron or steel
7302	Railway or tramway track construction material of iron or steel, the following: rails, check-rails and rack rails, switch blades, crossing frogs, point rods and other crossing pieces, sleepers (cross-ties), fish-plates, chairs, chair wedges, sole plates (base plates), rail clips, bedplates, ties and other material specialized for jointing or fixing rails
7303	Tubes, pipes and hollow profiles, of cast iron
7308	Structures (excluding prefabricated buildings of heading No. 94.06) and parts of structures (for example, bridges and bridge-sections, lock-gates, towers, lattice masts, roofs, roofing frame-works, doors and windows and their frames and thresholds for doors, shutters, balustrades, pillars and columns), of iron or steel; plates, rods, angles, shapes, sections, tubes and the like, prepared for use in structures, of iron or steel
7309	Reservoirs, tanks, vats and similar containers for any material (other than compressed or liquefied gas), of iron or steel, of a capacity exceeding 300 litres, whether or not lined or heat-insulated, but not fitted with mechanical or thermal equipment
7310	Tanks, casks, drums, cans, boxes and similar containers, for any material (other than compressed or liquefied gas), of iron or steel, of a capacity not exceeding 300 litres, whether or not lined or heat-insulated, but not fitted with mechanical or thermal equipment
7311	Containers for compressed or liquefied gas, of iron or steel
7312	Stranded wire, ropes, cables, plaited bands, slings and the like, of iron or steel, not electrically insulated

7313	Barbed wire of iron or steel; twisted hoop or single flat wire, barbed or not, and loosely twisted double wire, of a kind used for fencing, of iron or steel
7314	Cloth (including endless bands), grill, netting and fencing, of iron or steel wire; expanded metal of iron or steel
7315	Chain and parts thereof, of iron or steel
7316	Anchors, grapnels and parts thereof, of iron or steel
7317	Nails, tacks, drawing pins, corrugated nails, staples (other than those of heading No. 83.05) and similar articles, of iron or steel, whether or not with heads of other material, but excluding such articles with heads of copper
7318	Screws, bolts, nuts, coach screws, screw hooks, rivets, cotters, cotter-pins, washers (including spring washers) and similar articles, of iron or steel
7319	Sewing needles, knitting needles, bodkins, crochet hooks, embroidery stilettoes and similar articles, for use in the hand, of iron or steel; safety pins and other pins of iron or steel, not elsewhere specified or included
7320	Springs and leaves for springs, of iron or steel
7321	Stoves, ranges, grates, cookers (including those with subsidiary boilers for central heating), barbecues, braziers, gas-rings, plate warmers and similar non-electric domestic appliances, and parts thereof, of iron or steel
7322	Radiators for central heating, not electrically heated, and parts thereof, of iron or steel; air heaters and hot air distributors (including distributors which can also distribute fresh or conditioned air), not electrically heated, incorporating a motor-driven fan or blower, and parts thereof, of iron or steel
7323	Table, kitchen or other household articles and parts thereof, of iron or steel; iron or steel wool; pot scourers and scouring or polishing pads, gloves and the like, of iron or steel
7324	Sanitary ware and parts thereof, of iron or steel
7325	Other cast articles of iron or steel
7326	Other articles of iron or steel
74	Copper and articles thereof
75	Nickel and articles thereof
76	Aluminum and articles thereof
78	Lead and articles thereof
79	Zinc and articles thereof
80	Tin and articles thereof
81	Other base metals; cermets; articles thereof
82	Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal
83	Miscellaneous articles of base metal
86	Railway or tramway locomotives, rolling-stock and parts thereof; railway or tramway track fixtures and fittings and parts thereof; mechanical (including electro-mechanical)

	traffic signalling equipment of all kinds
88	Aircraft, spacecraft and parts thereof
89	Ships, boats and floating structures
91	Clocks and watches and parts thereof
92	Musical instruments; parts and accessories of such articles
93	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof
94	Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings; lamps and lighting fittings, not elsewhere specified or included; illuminated signs, illuminated name-plates and the like; prefabricated buildings
95	Toys, games and sports requisites; parts and accessories thereof
96	Miscellaneous manufactured articles
97	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques

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May 9, 2000

(4:55 p.m. EDT)

No. 98

CANADA EXTENDS GENERAL PREFERENTIAL TARIFF

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that Canada will extend the General Preferential Tariff (GPT) to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. An Order-in-Council was adopted on May 4, to enable the extension of the GPT.

"Granting the GPT to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will contribute to enhancing Canada's trade and economic links in the Balkan region," said Minister Axworthy. "This demonstrates Canada's support for the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe, and for the international efforts to build a peaceful and democratic future in that region."

Minister Axworthy discussed this issue with High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch, whose peacebuilding program in Bosnia emphasizes the economic reform agenda as a high priority for the coming months.

Canadian imports of goods from the two countries totalled \$16.2 million in 1999.

In 1991, prior to the dissolution of Yugoslavia, Canada had imposed economic sanctions, including the withdrawal of the GPT, on that country. Since then, Canada has granted Slovenia and Croatia, two of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, GPT treatment of their exports.

The GPT was instituted during the 1970s by most industrialized countries. It is a preferential tariff for imports from developing countries, designed to encourage their economic growth through increased trade.

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For further information, media representatives may contact :

Debora Brown
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
(613) 995-1851

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and
International Trade
(613) 995-1874



May 10, 2000

(9:20 a.m. EDT)

No. 99

AXWORTHY TO ATTEND HUMAN SECURITY NETWORK MEETING

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced that he will be in Lucerne, Switzerland, on May 11 and 12 to attend the second Ministerial Meeting of the Human Security Network. Ministers and representatives of the governments of 13 countries will meet to discuss an international approach to human security. The Government of Switzerland will host the meeting. This meeting builds on the Human Security Network meeting held last May in Bergen, Norway.

"The deeply troubling developments in Sierra Leone require urgent international attention," said Minister Axworthy. "I will urge that the Network mobilize action in the areas of the plight of war-affected children, the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons."

On the first day of meetings, ministers and representatives of the Human Security Network will be joined by non-governmental organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The meeting, which will feature a keynote address by Francis Deng, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Internally Displaced Persons, will focus principally on two topics: the challenge posed by the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and the role of non-state actors in promoting human security.

During the ministerial portion of the meeting, ministers will discuss additional pressing challenges in the field of human security and will review progress on an action plan devised at last year's meeting.

Results expected from the meeting include a commitment by the countries in the Network to concerted action in preparation for the 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms. Network members will also promote implementation of the UN Secretary-General's report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, and the early ratification and entry into force of the International Criminal Court and the recently negotiated Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.



Ministers will also brief their colleagues on their human security initiatives. Mr. Axworthy will share with participants his assessment of the situation in Sierra Leone following his April 29 to 30 visit there, as well as the results from the Conference on War-Affected Children in West Africa, which Canada co-hosted with Ghana, in Accra, on April 27 and 28. The Accra conference was announced last year at the Human Security Network meeting in Bergen. Mr. Axworthy will also highlight plans for an international conference on war-affected children that Canada will host in the fall; Canada's presidency of the UN Security Council last month, during which Canada focussed on human security issues; and Canada's intention to advance human security through the Organization of American States General Assembly, which takes place from June 4 to 6.

During the meeting, Canada and Norway will present results from the Peace Implementation Network micro-disarmament forum held in Montreal in September 1999, summarizing practical lessons learned from small arms collection and destruction programs in Albania, El Salvador, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone. The forum is a Canada-Norway co-sponsored initiative announced at last year's Human Security Network meeting.

Participants in the Human Security Network meeting include Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Netherlands, Ireland, Greece, Austria, Slovenia, Chile, Mali, Jordan and Thailand. South Africa will attend as an observer.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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